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Palestinians bury 13-year-old Hebron riot victim

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A 13-year-old Palestinian boy fatally shot by the IDF during clashes in Hebron last week was laid to rest yesterday. Samer Karamah had been declared clinically brain dead last week and was taken off life support yesterday morning.

Hundreds attended the noon-time funeral in Hebron. Karamah's body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, and his head draped with a black and white kaffiyeh, was carried through the streets. Mourners holding Fatah and Hamas flags called out for revenge.

Palestinian police fired a salute of 21 shots in the air over the fresh grave as Ahmed Karamah, a 23-year-old cousin, wailed: "they

Great Britain's attempt to speed up the peace process degenerated into a bitter squabble yesterday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused visiting Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of violating the ground rules for his body contested tour of the Har Homa construction site in Jerusalem.

The unprecedented verbal clashes that followed Cook's presence on the hilltop were triggered by his having met Palestinian leaders, including Salah Ta'amri, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, nearby.

"There were understandings

Har Homa, one year later, Page 2

according to which the tour would not include contact with Palestinians," a visibly angry Netanyahu said after a tense discussion with Cook. He said there had been a prior discussion with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the gist of which was that there be no contact with Palestinians at Har Homa. Netanyahu demonstrated his displeasure by cancelling a supper at which Cook was to have been the guest of honor.

"I had three four-course meals since I came to the Middle East," Cook said, denying a crisis in UK-Israel relations after a news conference at the King David Hotel. "I'm not going to miss another one."

Cook described his visit to Har Homa as "a symbolic act," which was meant to show the extent to which "settlements" are destroying the peace process. He contended that this view is held by the international community.

Netanyahu rejected this terminology, declaring that Har Homa is a housing development within Jerusalem's city limits, not a settlement in the West Bank.

"We stuck to the letter of our

Angry Netanyahu cancels dinner for British foreign secretary PM: Cook broke the rules



British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, holding his own umbrella, listens to Palestinian Legislative Council member Salah Ta'amri make a point yesterday opposite Jerusalem's Har Homa sector.

agreement," Cook went on, referring to the terms that had been agreed upon by the two Foreign Ministers. He was escorted to Har Homa by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, and the Jerusalem Municipality's Amos Radian, after his initial intention to go there with the Palestinian Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Hussein had been abandoned.

According to Israel Radio, when Naveh greeted Cook, he said, "Welcome to Jerusalem, the capital of Israel." Cook replied: "It's not just the capital of Israel, it's also

the capital of Palestine." Cook also refused a briefing from Radian on Har Homa saying, "I don't need your briefing, because I don't recognize your right to be here."

"We repeatedly bent over back-

said. "But this is on condition that it not supersede direct contact between Israel and the Palestinians."

Cook's tour not only rendered Netanyahu unable or unwilling to discuss any subject other than Jerusalem during their exceptionally tense meeting, but it also evoked a series of rhetorical reminders of his government's commitment to preserve the city's current status as the undivided national capital.

"Jerusalem is a cardinal issue in my eyes," Netanyahu said. "Israel is the sovereign and it will remain

as such forever. Europe understands very well our position with regard to Jerusalem."

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat said that, "I'm sorry to say that Netanyahu is trying to make a big issue against Mr. Cook. No doubt this is provocative action against Europe."

Earlier, Cook conferred with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, probing the negotiations with the Palestinians and especially Israel's proposal to withdraw from Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council

Resolution 425.

Reuters adds:

The US said it has great confidence in Cook's efforts to promote peace, but had not been consulted on his visit to Har Homa.

The State Department said it hopes the uproar over Cook's visit would end with Israeli and Palestinian leaders deciding that it is time to move forward on peace.

Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib add:

Cook was warmly received by Arafat in Gaza. During a three-hour meeting, Palestinian officials said the two discussed the deadlock in peace negotiations and the EU role in getting them back on track.

Following their meeting, Cook and Arafat held a short press conference before Cook continued on to Jerusalem.

Cook said the EU is deeply concerned about the deadlock and cannot accept settlement construction.

The EU intends to establish a permanent security committee with the PA and work more closely with the Palestinians in training security officers, he said.

Some \$5 million will be set aside for the committee and Europe will continue providing aid to the PA after the five-year funding plan expires at the end of the year, he said.

After Har Homa, Cook met with Hussein in a college opposite Orient House then placed a wreath at the Jerusalem memorial erected in memory of Palestinians killed by Israel.

Liat Collins adds:

"Netanyahu as foreign minister has apparently taken it on himself to ruin Israel's relations with Britain and all Europe," said MK Yossi Beilin (Labor). "Instead of allowing the visit of the British foreign secretary to Har Homa as an unimportant and marginal event in his trip, Netanyahu turned it into an international media event and succeeded in worsening world opposition to one of the few issues on which there is a consensus in Israel: the unity of Jerusalem and Israeli sovereignty."

Settlers discuss security with Shalek, Page 3

killed him in cold blood."

Women wrung their hands, weeping down their faces and mourners in the crowd called out "with our blood and our soul we must avenge Samer and Palestine."

Afterwards, several dozen Palestinians threw stones toward the Jewish Quarter in Hebron. IDF soldiers did not enter the area, while Palestinian police came and dispersed the demonstrators.

Speaking on Israel Radio, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) accused the Hebron settlers of triggering the riots that led to Karamah's death. Settlers charged that the boy had been wounded two days before their incursion into the Abu Snehneh neighborhood.

Later, Cohen admitted he had erred but would not retract his criticism, alleging that the settlers were aware of the boy's injury when they staged their action. He also alleged that the shots fired at the Jewish Quarter last week did not endanger anyone.

Hebron settler Moshe Ben Zimra said it was clear that Cohen was not willing to come to terms with Jews living in Hebron.

See VICTIM, Page 2

FBI head earns NIS 4m. for 1997

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Shlomo Piotrkowsky, managing director of the First International Bank of Israel, was very pleased yesterday when he revealed the bank's annual results for 1997.

The report shows that Piotrkowsky had good reason to smile. Not only did net profits rise by an impressive 19 percent, Piotrkowsky also became the first employee of an Israeli public company to earn an annual salary of more than NIS 4 million.

The report said Piotrkowsky's salary rose 6.3 percent last year to NIS 4.14m. or NIS 345,000 a month.

In addition, Piotrkowsky will receive another NIS 884,000 for this year as a bonus if he continues in his job through the end of 2000. This would bring his annual salary to just over NIS 5m.

Full report, Page 13

White House: Willey, Clinton were on good terms after 'incident'

By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP)—After US President Bill Clinton allegedly groped Kathleen Willey in the White House, the two kept up contact as she sought an ambassadorship, a position on an international panel, and a place in his reelection campaign.

Poll: 60% say Clinton involved in sexual misconduct, Page 7

The White House arranged for her to go to two international conferences and, in a scrawled note to an aide about a request from Willey, the president asked: "Can we do this for her?"

In a three-page letter to Clinton in December 1995, which she signed "Fondly, Kathleen," Willey thanked Clinton for letting her attend a biological diversity convention in Indonesia.

"I spent one day in a rain forest, followed by a day diving the coral reef on the island of Sulawesi, experiences which I will never forget," she wrote.

Clinton's response: "The Convention on Biological Diversity must have been fascinating. Thanks, too, for your continued desire to serve the administration."

The president's advisers tried Monday to use the 20 charity handwritten letters Willey wrote to the president from 1993 to 1997 to discredit her allegation that Clinton

had embraced her, kissed her on the lips, touched her breasts, and put her hand on his genitals in November 1993.

The correspondence involving Willey and Clinton, released by the White House, shows that after the alleged sexual advance, Willey made persistent requests of Clinton, and the president took the time to deal with her entreaties personally, although he was friendlier and warmer in earlier replies.

Independent counsel Kenneth Starr is investigating whether prominent Maryland Democrat Nathan Landow urged Willey to deny that Clinton made an improper sexual advance. She said in a deposition that Landow had spoken to her about her testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against Clinton. Landow denies trying to influence her testimony.

Separately, the president's lawyer, Robert Bennett, questioned whether money is motivating Willey to make accusations against the president. Bennett said her lawyer, Dan Becker, is arranging a \$300,000 book deal for her.

When seeking employment later, White House memos show she left 11 telephone messages for Clinton, six in the three months after the alleged sexual advance. It was not clear whether Clinton responded.

Meanwhile, *The New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions that one of Willey's late husband's clients said she called him after her husband killed himself to accuse him of driving her husband to suicide. The Richmond, Virginia, produce company owner also told the paper Willey made similar calls to his lawyer.



Jubilee poster chosen

This entry, designed by artist Danny Kadosh, was selected yesterday from among five finalists as the official 50th anniversary poster. The poster image is in the form of a 'hamas' - the traditional Middle Eastern, five-fingered good-luck symbol - and includes a white dove of peace and children embracing under the sun. The Jubilee Association also presented a guide, in Hebrew and English, for anniversary events here and abroad. The guide will be distributed to public bodies, government ministries, MKs, local authorities, and Jewish organizations. It will also be sold for about NIS 6 at Government Information Center stores. Over 250 initial entries competed and were reduced to 44 finalists.

Cook may have doomed EU mediation effort

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook may be hailed as a diplomatic hero when he arrives in Damascus and Beirut, but his head-on collisions in Jerusalem - first with angry demonstrators and then with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - left him empty-handed insofar as the search for peace in southern Lebanon and an agreement on the Golan Heights are concerned.

To the extent that his stormy visit to Har Homa and concurrent meeting nearby with Palestinian officials antagonized Netanyahu - and to judge by the prime minister's flushed complexion and tense body language, this was the case - he dealt a severe blow to the European Union's efforts at gaining Israel's confidence.

In so doing, he undid the painstaking diplomatic effort made by the EU's astute peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos, who also was subjected to the high-pitched admonitions of right-wing demonstrators at the controversial construction site.

It is plausible that Cook's original decision to deviate from protocol and incur the wrath of his Israeli hosts was prompted by a desire to shore up the UK's standing in the Arab world. He offered dramatic proof of British sympathy with and acceptance of Palestinian claims to east Jerusalem. This may be construed by Arab leaders and opinion makers as having offset Britain's mili-

ANALYSIS

By JAY BUSHINSKY

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook may be hailed as a diplomatic hero when he arrives in Damascus and Beirut, but his head-on collisions in Jerusalem - first with angry demonstrators and then with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu - left him empty-handed insofar as the search for peace in southern Lebanon and an agreement on the Golan Heights are concerned.

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itary alliance with the US against Iraq. Wishful thinkers contend that Cook's "bad cop" behavior was meant to enable Prime Minister Tony Blair to play the "good cop" when he visits next month. But Blair gave Cook his unequivocal support from the outset, and it would be naive to believe that the policies he advocated during his hectic stay differ from Blair's.

Making the most of Britain's presidency of the EU, Blair and Cook evidently were determined to make Netanyahu and Israel's body politic as a whole face up to the fact that the Palestinians have the international community's backing on the Jerusalem issue.

Moreover, they apparently are convinced that the peace process, whose success is vital to EU economic and political interests, will be doomed unless there can be flexibility in dealing with the Palestinians' most persistent demand: a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Since Netanyahu and his coalition believe this is a non-starter, the government may find it necessary to reassess its recurring diplomatic contacts with the EU or insist that there can be no more sideshow diplomacy in which the EU purports to play second fiddle to the US. One "honest broker" evidently is as much as Netanyahu can handle at this stage and he may now realize that it must be American.



NEWS

in brief

Sharansky off to US today for talks with Gore

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky flew to the US today for talks in Washington with US Vice President Al Gore. He was accompanied by Uzi Arad, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser.

Russia's involvement in Iran's ballistic missile program will be the main topic when Sharansky meets Gore, a senior government official said. The official said Sharansky and Arad also will confer with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Dennis Ross, the State Department's Middle East peace coordinator.

Jay Bushinsky

UN again condemns Har Homa

The UN General Assembly last night issued a new condemnation of Israel's failure to halt construction of the housing project on Har Homa in southeast Jerusalem and again called for a conference of parties to a Geneva convention barring such "settlements." The vote, at a resumed emergency session of the 185-nation assembly, was 120 in favor and three against, with five abstentions.

Reuters

Islamic Conference reconsiders ties with Israel

The Islamic Conference urged member nations yesterday in Doha to reconsider ties with Israel, "including the shutting of offices and diplomatic representations." A statement published after a meeting of the organization's foreign ministers also called on "the international community to refrain from negotiating with Israeli occupation authorities." It also urged the US and Russia to put pressure on Israel to stop building settlements in the West Bank.

Jim

Toddler dies in fire

Two-and-a-half-year-old Shalev Yosefi died yesterday in a fire in his home in Rosh Ha'ayin. His mother Anat was treated for shock. She shouted for help after seeing flames shooting out of the boy's room. Magen David Adom medics later found his charred body inside. Police and firefighters believe that the boy may have inadvertently lit the fire while playing with a cigarette lighter.

Jim

Froman gets permission to visit Iran

Rabbi Menahem Froman received permission several days ago from Iranian authorities to visit their country. Froman, from Tekoa, has been working a long time to arrange a visit by a rabbinical delegation. He received the permission via a third country whose identity wasn't released. Froman said he would now try to set up meetings with clerical figures in Iran before setting a date for his trip. He said the aim of his trip would be to set up an interreligious dialogue.

Jim

Buenos Aires bombing remembered

The sixth anniversary of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, in which 29 people were killed, was marked yesterday by a Foreign Ministry statement demanding intensification of the effort to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Noting that four Israeli diplomats and four embassy employees were among the dead, the statement called on the international community to "struggle against those states and organizations which support terrorism as a means to achieve their goals."

Jay Bushinsky

Austrian chancellor arrives today

Austrian Chancellor Viktor Klima begins a three-day visit today, during which he will place a wreath at Yad Vashem and confer with the families of soldiers missing in action in the 1982 Lebanon War. Klima will visit Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza.

A dispute over Austria's reference to Arafat as "president" of the PA is expected to make it impossible for a joint Israeli-Austrian communiqué to be issued. Austrian Ambassador Wolfgang Paul said this problem was discussed between the Foreign Ministry in Vienna and the Israeli ambassador, but he was unaware of any solution having been reached.

Jay Bushinsky

With great sorrow we announce the passing of my beloved wife, our mother and grandmother

MALKA SHAPIRA מלכה

The funeral took place on Tuesday, March 17, 1998, at the cemetery in Moshav Beit Herut

The family

We mourn the loss of our mother

RUTH CHERNOFSKY רות
(née Gershbaum)

Shiva at 19/10 Rehov Brand, Har Nof, Jerusalem, until Monday morning

Philip, Nachum (Neil) and Binyomin (Bennett) and families

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our dear

BRACHA GLICK

née Beatrice Hechtman

Prayers at 5:30 p.m. through Sunday, March 22 at 10 Rehov Ze'ev Bachar, Jerusalem.

Shimon and Brenda Glick
Stanley and Debra Hershfang
Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

HANNAH MINA RUBINSTEIN
née Ettinghausen

The funeral took place yesterday in Pardes Hanna. Chaim and Rina Rubinstein Zvika and Daniella Rubinstein Dvora and Yitzhak Levy Naomi and David Keren and grandchildren
Shiva at the Levy home, 5 Hakekaf St., Alon Shvut, Tel. 02-993-3408

Chaos prevails during Cook visit

By ELLI WOHLGELER

On a tumultuous, chaotic first visit to Jerusalem yesterday, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was cheered and jeered by dueling demonstrators when he paid two symbolic visits to the controversial Har Homa construction site.

Cook and his entourage met for a few minutes with cabinet secretary Dan Naveh at the foot of the hill, where Cook was shown the lay of the land and the surrounding rocky hills where 1,200 homes are expected to be built sometime soon.

From there Cook proceeded a kilometer down the road past the military checkpoint to the back of Har Homa, where he was greeted for 30 seconds by Salah Ta'amri, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, amid a throng of jostling journalists, and right-wing demonstrators shouting: "Antisemite go home."

"This is occupied territory since 1967; this is the playground of our youth, and we remember it," Ta'amri told Cook. "We have great faith in your courage, and sense of fairness and justice. Thank you for coming. I appreciate it."

"Thank you very much," responded Cook, as he was quickly led away by nervous security agents trying to shield him from the vociferous mob. "I hope we can talk another time, in different circumstances."

"He is an antisemite; he should go back to England and take care of his problems there," said right-wing activist Noam Federman.



Right-wing demonstrators protest British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit to Har Homa yesterday.

(Brian Heudler)

"He has problems in Ireland with the IRA and Sinn Fein, and he should not get involved in what's happening in Israel. This is our land, and we will take care of our business here."

Federman and a handful of other Kach supporters had taken a back road through Bethlehem to demonstrate at the Cook-Ta'amri meeting. An hour before he had been part of a demonstration at the Hebron Road turnoff

to Har Homa, together with some 100 others, including members of Our Jerusalem and Women in Green, who banged on pots while yelling: "Cook go home!"

Three feet away, a smaller pro-Cook demonstration organized by Peace Now was facing off against the anti-Cook protesters. MKs Yossi Sarid (Meretz) and Yael Dayan (Labor) joined the rally, as demonstrators held up signs say-

ing: "Cook, you fold, the peace roasts." "Har Homa is not Jerusalem," "Robin Don't let Bibi bully you," and "Robin: Help us save the peace."

Following his meeting with Ta'amri, Cook traveled to eastern Jerusalem to meet with Palestinian Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Hussein.

Cook said that, as Britain currently holds the rotating chairmanship of the European Union,

his visit was an attempt "to renew the peace process and make sure we provide peace with justice to the Palestinians and peace with security to the Israeli population. The European Union is deeply concerned about the stalemate in the peace process. We are near neighbors of the Middle East; we also are the largest financial backers of the peace process. We want to see the peace process back on track."

Har Homa, one year later

By ELLI WOHLGELER

What a difference a year makes — or is that déjà vu all over again? Exactly a year ago today, some 2,000 media representatives assembled at the base of a lovely, tree-saturated hill in southeast Jerusalem to watch bulldozers and shovel trucks break ground for a controversial new neighborhood called Har Homa.

After a morning of heavy rain that Tuesday, the skies turned partly cloudy, and though cold and blustery it was not enough to deter the multitude that came for the show.

Yesterday, the journalists gathered there again for another media scene, fighting off driving rain and hail for the visit of British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook.

In the 12 months between these two scenes, Har Homa became the political buzz word.

No story from the world's media relating to the peace process could be written without a mention of this hill: every deadlock in negotiations, every potential breakthrough, every threat of street violence — in short, any twist and turn between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat since last March 18 has had the

building project at Har Homa silently — and sometimes vocally — hovering above.

The government argued it was Jerusalem, and as such it needed to be built, as much to ease the city's housing shortage as to make a statement on the city's boundaries.

For the Arabs from the nearby village of Beit Sahur, Har Homa — or Jabal Abu Ghneim as they call it — was an extension of their land, and part of their future capital of Palestine.

Everyone feared the worst that day, expecting a reaction similar to what occurred after the opening of another exit to the Western Wall Tunnel in September '96.

But no violence and no threats would stop Netanyahu's government, and for the next nine months constructed continued unimpeded, despite worldwide condemnation and UN resolutions condemning the building.

Moreover, in the face of such worldwide opposition, it became the perfect rallying cry for the right-wing, the litmus test for those MKs and politicians — like Michael Kleiner of Geshet and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert — who wanted to know just how strong was Netanyahu's commitment on the issue of Jerusalem.

More than once in the past four months, Netanyahu has had to explain he was not caving in to US pressure to slow down the process, and that the project "will proceed without delay."

But these politics will not wait forever. When the issue was raised in December and January, it was said that technical problems were holding things up, but that the next stage — the offering of tenders — would proceed sometime in the first quarter of '98, that is by the end of this month.

But sources in the Housing Ministry and the Israel Lands Administration told *The Jerusalem Post* that everything has been ready for a couple of months and that the delay is because they are waiting "for a green light from above. He is waiting for the right time."

With Kleiner threatening to bring down the government over stalled construction and Olmert intimating he will challenge Netanyahu for party leadership if he hesitates on the issue, Cook's visit to the site yesterday with Salah Ta'amri, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, only sets the stage for the imminent Act II in the year-long drama known as Har Homa.

Spoiled broth leaves Cook eating sandwiches

By THOMAS O'DWYER

As British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's visit took an unexpected turn last night, European diplomatic sources said they were mystified by the turn of events.

Cook, having first been scheduled for two dinners, found himself dining on beer and sandwiches at the British Embassy instead.

EU diplomatic sources said Cook's dinner with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been arranged at the last minute at the prime minister's request.

"This had forced the cancellation of one previously arranged with opposition leader Ehud Barak on a Labor party-to-party basis. Barak had flown home from New York a day early for the dinner."

Netanyahu then canceled the dinner following yesterday's events at Har Homa, but the EU diplomats had been given no official reason for the cancellation.

The diplomats rejected government suggestions that Cook had broken any agreement by reiterating known EU policy on the Har Homa issue.

"If anyone broke an agreement for a low-profile visit, the Israeli side did," one source said. "Cook was expecting to visit the site quietly with cabinet secretary Dan Naveh... only to be confronted by a major demonstration of noisy and abusive settlers," the source said.

Weizman scolds Cook for bad 'take-off'

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman last night chided British Foreign Minister Robin Cook for starting off his visit here at Har Homa.

"The take-off was where it should not have been," Weizman told Cook. "But it's up to you. You are the foreign minister of Great Britain."

Citing Churchill — "I like learning but I don't like being taught" — Weizman added: "I'm not going to teach you, but please take this into consideration."

Cook responded: "Other people also had to fasten [their seatbelts] at take-off."

Nevertheless, the atmosphere at the meeting was amiable. Weizman recalled the message of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, whom he described as "the one wise man in the whole long

affair between Arabs and Jews... He realized that when he came here, he had to try as much as possible to get the Israelis on his side."

Weizman said in another pointed reference to the guest: "That was how he got the most out of the right-wing [premier] Menachem Begin. Diplomats and leaders must learn that you have to get people on your side to succeed."

Weizman had broken the ice by pulling out his father's 1926 edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He showed Cook the Zionist flag (today Israel's national flag) with the word "Palestine" written across it.

"I fought under this flag of Palestine when I was with his majesty's forces in World War II. I told the queen mother, during our visit to Britain, that she was 'my queen' then," Weizman said.

"That's extraordinary," Cook said, looking at the emblem.

VICTIM

Continued from Page 1

Elsewhere, Palestinian Police agreed to allow yeshiva students to enter Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday. The IDF set up roadblocks around the city.

The human rights organization B'tselem said yesterday that 51 Palestinian children, most of them less than 15, have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians in the last 10 years. IDF and Border Police commanders met with Palestinian reporters in Hebron yesterday to discuss the events that led to the shooting of eight Palestinian journalists last Friday.

IDF Hebron Commander Col. Yigal Sharon stressed that it was IDF policy not to harm innocent civilians. Sharon said the soldiers

and Border Police were unable to discern that those they were shooting were journalists because of conditions at the scene.

Sharon said he would do everything in his power to enable journalists to cover the city and advised them to avoid standing among rioters. He also suggested that they identify themselves to IDF troops at the site.

The Palestinian journalists said they would consider wearing helmets or clothes to make it easier for the IDF to identify them.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. William Crane, of the American Embassy, will speak on "Tech in the Context of the Middle East Peace Process." And a Happy New Year to the Bahai Community.

The graveyard of Cook's career?

LONDON — British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook — dubbed "Throbbing Robin" since abandoning his wife for a younger parliamentary aide — might yet look back on Har Homa as the graveyard of his political career.

Not that the diplomatic imbroglio over a nascent Jerusalem neighborhood is, in itself, a resignation matter; it is just the latest in a series of high-profile miscalculations, misjudgments and mistakes by this unlikely Lothario.

What makes the Har Homa debacle particularly embarrassing for the prime minister Tony Blair is that it has tarnished the jewel in the crown of Britain's six-month presidency of the European Union.

Far from propelling Britain to center stage in Europe and the Europeans to center stage in Middle East diplomacy — the unalloyed objective of the mission — Cook's abortive public relations extravaganza in Har Homa has almost certainly scuttled that ambition.

It is likely to have awakened Israel's darkest suspicions about Europe's innate pro-Arab tilt and, in the process, to have antagonized a principal protagonist in the peace process.

An editorial in the London *Times* made just that point yesterday when it noted that the Har Homa issue "has all but eclipsed the main purpose of his trip and seems likely to have a thoroughly adverse impact on the EU hopes of becoming more actively engaged... Cook is not known for his ebullient manner; but he has

not served the EU's purposes well by donning his diplomatic big boots."

This is not the first time that the accident-prone, 52-year-old Cook has discomfited Blair, who is said to have had a cordial encounter with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu less than two weeks ago and who is said to be personally well-disposed to Israel.

Soon after entering office last May, Cook was criticized for having deliberately kept Princess Diana waiting for 20 minutes when she called on him for a briefing on land mines.

He provoked another storm for raising the controversial issue of Kashmir with Pakistani leaders, immediately before accompanying Queen Elizabeth on what became a disastrous visit to India. Cook was further criticized for abandoning her in the middle of the problematic visit to rush back to Britain to be with his new lover.

More recently, he has been accused of duplicity for continuing to sell arms to Indonesia while making human rights a top priority. Indeed, Cook's commitment to ethics and human rights has come back to haunt him.

Labor chairperson of the bipartisan Parliamentary Human Rights Group Anne Clwyd accused him of not doing enough to act against the "brutal and sustained torture" of prisoners in Saudi Arabia, one of Britain's major arms clients. Cook's pledge to put human rights at the heart of British foreign policy, she said, "appears not to apply in the Gulf."

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Shirley M. 150

Lubrani: 425 the only viable option

By DAVID RUDGE
and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

On the eve of today's security cabinet discussion on Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, has come out strongly in favor of the initiative proposed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and supported by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"In my view UN Security Council Resolution 425 is the only viable proposal and I believe everybody has got to support it and give it a good chance before seeking other solutions. Unilateral withdrawal would be disastrous," Lubrani told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

He noted that Mordechai had made it clear to South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, in a meeting yesterday, that under no circumstances would Israel withdraw unilaterally from the security zone without security arrangements that would include the SLA.

"I have no way of quantifying the chances [of the initiative's success], but I can say that it is only at the beginning and it has to have time to ferment and sink in and take root. It's too early for a responsible assessment," said Lubrani.

"One thing is for sure, however. There is a lot of confusion and embarrassment in Lebanon and Syria, and there are debates in the hierarchy as to how to deal with this initiative."

"It should be remembered that the implementation of 425 has been traditionally demanded by the Lebanese and now Israel is saying let's go ahead."

Lubrani noted that Israel is basing its proposal on the resolution in its entirety. The resolution calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, for the Lebanese government to reassert effective authority over the region, and for the restoration of international peace and security.

On this basis, it is expected that the Lebanese Army would deploy into the areas vacated by the IDF and, backed by UNIFIL, would stamp its control over the region. By definition, this would involve ensuring peace and quiet in south Lebanon, leading to a disarming of all militias and assuring the safety of local residents, as well as the international border.

"We are saying that all three clauses are linked together. This is the essence of 425 not just according to our legal experts, but also the UN's legal experts," he said.

As to the prospect of 425 being implemented without some kind of arrangement with Syria, which has rejected Israel's proposal and described it as a malicious trick, he said: "I don't want to preempt. It's too early to say. By the same token, we don't ignore the Syrian dimension. I am certainly cognizant of it."

"From our point of view, any kind of flexibility on the part of Syria with regard to 425 would be considered as a very important confidence-building measure toward reactivating the Syrian-Israeli track."

In their meeting, Mordechai promised Lahad that the SLA would not be abandoned to withdrawal from Lebanon.

"Gen. Lahad has nothing to worry about," Mordechai told reporters after the meeting. "The relations between the security establishment and the SLA are very good."

Lahad rejected National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's unilateral withdrawal in stages proposal as "negative."

"I stand behind UN Resolution 425 because it serves both Israel and Lebanon. A unilateral withdrawal is a bad solution," Lahad said.

Defense sources said Lahad told Mordechai that he has received messages from many Lebanese leaders who support the Israeli initiative, but feel compelled not to say so publicly.

Meanwhile, MK Yossi Beilin



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) greets SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad yesterday.

(Labor), who heads the Movement to Leave Lebanon in Peace, praised the government for discussing proposals for a withdrawal.

At a press conference in the Knesset, he said any move could help the peace process but rejected Sharon's suggestion. He said that if the withdrawal is in stages with

each step being a test period, those interested in Israel staying in Lebanon, such as the Syrians, would be tempted to ensure an attack would torpedo the pullback. For similar reasons, he ruled out the pullback being on the basis of only a formal agreement.

"It must be unilateral and a one-

off withdrawal," Beilin said.

Beilin suggested that the question of the SLA could be solved by either granting them economic compensation; by the senior officers going to France; or by them receiving refuge in Israel.

Liat Collins contributed to this report.

Hizbullah launches campaign to discredit Resolution 425

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah has launched a disinformation campaign to discredit Israel's initiative on Security Council Resolution 425 and use it as a psychological weapon to undermine the South Lebanese Army, according to a senior security source.

"The aim of this psychological warfare is to try and frighten members of the SLA and make them believe that the significance of 425 is that they would be neglected," said the source.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have declared Israel's willingness to implement 425 on condition that arrangements are reached that would guarantee the security of northern communities and the safety of SLA soldiers and their families.

Hizbullah and its Iranian mentors know that the 425 proposal, if implemented, would remove the organization's reason for existence as a "resistance force" fighting to liberate south Lebanon from the "Zionist enemy."

The organization, however, cannot be seen to oppose an initiative that is in Lebanon's interest and which would bring about a withdrawal of the IDF from the security zone.

The security source noted that Hizbullah's "Nur" radio station on March 6 broadcast a report that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan would be coming to the region with a proposal under which the SLA's commander and senior officers would be granted political asylum in France in the event of an IDF withdrawal. The broadcast said that under the pro-

posal, SLA soldiers who remained in Lebanon would be incorporated into the Lebanese Army.

The details were similar in content to those in an article published yesterday in *Yedioth Aharonot* which maintained that Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on Lebanon, and SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad had recently secretly met senior diplomats at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris.

According to the report, it was agreed at the meeting that Lahad and senior SLA officers and their families would be given asylum in France or other European countries if the IDF pulls out of south Lebanon.

The report was categorically denied by Mordechai, Lubrani, and Lahad.

"I don't know where this comes from," Mordechai said. "There haven't been any discussions like this. No one has met on it. We are at a principle stage of finding a direction where we will be able to fulfill Resolution 425 in agreement."

Asked after his meeting with Mordechai yesterday if he has already found a flat in Paris, Lahad simply smiled and said: "I am Lebanese and I don't accept any identity card other than a Lebanese."

If I were to take shelter in France, it wouldn't have been necessary for me to stay and fight from the start."

Lubrani told reporters that no such meeting had taken place and that the report itself was nonsense.

The senior security official said it appears that it was part of the disinformation campaign.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

Police: 20 settlers evading summonses

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Police said last night that out of 25 summonses they had issued to Hebron settlers regarding alleged rioting last Friday, only five had shown up for questioning. The police said that the remaining 20 settlers were evading the summons.

The summonses were issued Sunday after some 30 settlers entered the Palestinian-controlled area of the town Friday night to protest shots being fired at the Avraham Avrami quarter earlier in the evening. Their presence triggered off fierce clashes between

IDF troops and Palestinians, who claimed the settlers smashed windows and damaged property.

Several soldiers and border policemen were injured in the clashes as well as 20 Palestinians, including eight journalists. The settlers claimed they were provoked by an IDF order declaring the area a closed military zone and said once they were informed, they left peacefully.

Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Aron said the decision to enter the Palestinian area was a spontaneous one to protest the fact that three times within a week shots had been fired from the Abu Smeiah quarter in

HI at the Jewish community.

Three settlers have signed statements promising not to enter the Palestinian sector. Former Kach activist Baruch Marzel, who refused to sign, was later ordered to go by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court and a fifth settler was due to appear before a judge last night. Sivan said.

Yesterday the Hebron Jewish community advised settlers to show up for questioning, but former Kach activist Noam Federman said he has no intention of doing so. "When I decide it's the right time, I'll go to the police station," he said.

Settlers discuss security with Shahak

By MARGOT DUKKEVITCH

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza met with Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lippin-Shahak yesterday in Tel Aviv to discuss the increase in terrorist attacks in the territories and particularly in Hebron.

Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar said the meeting had been scheduled two and a half weeks ago but that council members met with Shahak periodically. "By meeting with us the army is able to gain a better understanding of how the lives of [our] residents

are affected by stonethrowing, firebombing, and shooting attacks," she said.

Council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, director Aharon Dorn, Beit El Mayor Uri Ariel, Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, and Ze'ev Hever, director of Amarna, were present at the meeting.

The meeting was far more pertinent than usual, said Tayar, because of last week's violence in Hebron and Shahak's statement that IDF soldiers arrive there sympathetic to settlers but leave feeling differently. In addition, West Bank Preventive

Security chief Jibril Rajoub's warning that any settlers entering Palestinian controlled areas with the intent to harm Palestinians would not leave alive was also raised.

"This sort of statement means that any Israeli citizen who accidentally strays into Palestinian territory could be lynched," said Wallerstein.

Rajoub's statement is cause for concern, said Shahak, noting the security forces constantly monitoring the situation.

Council members expressed concern at the shooting attacks at the Hebron Jewish community.

"It's a miracle that no one has been injured," Tayar said.

Tayar said Shahak stressed that his comments regarding the Hebron settlers had been leaked to the press and taken out of context. The settlers advised Shahak to think more carefully before making such statements, especially in such tense times.

"Shahak was focusing on a small group of residents in Hebron and Kiryat Arba and not the entire settler population," Wallerstein said.

At the end of the meeting the settlers raised a toast in honor of Shahak's birthday today.

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

The Barak backdash

With regard to Ehud Barak's recent statement that if he were a young Palestinian he would join a terrorist organization, Arieh Kariv writes in *Vesti* that the Labor Party chairman told a truth that we have been silent about. "We should put ourselves in the Palestinians' shoes and realize that they are going to fight for their independence just like we did - severely and without compromise." We should shed our illusion about being "the superior race," Kariv concludes.

Vesti's Shlomo Gorman argues, "I cannot say whether the absolute truth exists. If it does, I don't know where to look for it - on the earth, in the sky, at the bottom of the Mediterranean?" He proposes that we use common sense, which teaches that in every argument, each side has its own truth. No wonder we Jews stick to ours. In history, he says, there were periods when groups of Jews abandoned their truth and began to adhere to that of their enemies. "Let's stay in our own camp and defend ourselves, since we will never change the Arab mentality," he reasons. "Declaring a 'New Middle East' is like proclaiming a New World Climate: we throw out our winter clothes and stand freezing in the cold."

Dov Kontorer, another *Vesti* writer, compares the media's reaction to Barak's remark with that of Netanyahu's whispered words. "The Left has forgotten what it means to be a Jew." He says that the media, which is mostly left-wing, tends to overplay the prime minister's comment but to justify Barak's to minimize the damage.

Whatever happened to the Zionist forum?

In *Litach*, Roman Moskovich writes about the Zionist Forum for Soviet Jewry (ZFSJ), the once powerful organization headed by Nathan Sharansky, now Industry and Trade Minister and chairman of Yisrael Ba'Aliya. He notes that

the ZFSJ, which was a springboard for party's creation, has become more passive since the elections, although its new president, Roman Bronfman, is an Yisrael Ba'Aliya MK. The objective of the Zionist Forum is to resolve the cultural problems of the Russian-speaking community. A committee has been set up to formulate new aims and priorities. What the ZFSJ is doing now and how it is spending the large amount of money it received from the state and from abroad remains a mystery. "The

objectionable thing is that Bezael Schiff controls the financial affairs of both the Zionist Forum and Yisrael Ba'Aliya. The next ZFSJ congress will take place in June. Then perhaps we'll learn more about the organization's activities," he says.

Bukharans get political

Boris Freidkin reports in *Novosti Nedeli* that a new Russian-language newspaper, *Bukharskaya Gazeta*, is calling

for the creation of an ethnic movement, which would later become a political party. There are over a quarter of a million Bukharan Jews in Israel, comprising 4% of the population. But their representatives in state structures is much lower; you never see a Bukharan in the Knesset or in the government. Most Bukharan Jews are new immi-

grants from the former USSR, but they do not receive any assistance from Yisrael Ba'Aliya, which is Ashkenazi. In the last election, their votes were spread among Yisrael Ba'Aliya, Shas and Likud, says Freidkin, but the Bukharans claim that none of the parties recognizes them as full members. That is why many are contemplating a political entity of their own.

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"Motor Development: The New Synthesis: Learning to Walk"
Monday, March 23, 1998, at 2:00 pm.
Room 307, Pesla Toman Gutman Building

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Joyce Brenner in Netanya sets precedent: Reform rep joins religious council

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Last night, for the first time in the country's history, a representative of the Reform movement took part in the meeting of a local religious council.

The Reform representative, Dr. Joyce Brenner, had been nominated by Meretz faction in the Netanya Municipality.

Shosh Arar, Meretz chairperson in Netanya, said that 16 council members representing all of the factions in the municipality had taken part in the meeting, which passed without incident.

She added that Ya'acov Bower, an Orthodox Likud member, had welcomed Brenner by presenting her with a plate of *mishloach manot* for Purim.

The meeting was called by council chairman Dov

Dombrovitch over the objections of Netanya Chief Rabbi David Shloush, who has sharply protested the seating of a Reform representative, saying that the Reform reject God and His Torah.

According to the rules of the council, there had to be a quorum of 14 members present to hold the meeting. However, if a quorum was not present, the council could meet next week with any number of members present.

MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) praised Dombrovitch and the other members of the council, and said he hopes Brenner's acceptance by the council would open a new chapter in the relations among Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews here, *Idem* reported.

In a related development, the High Court of Justice tomorrow is due to consider petitions to seat

Reform and Conservative representatives on the local religious councils of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Kiryat Tivon, and Haifa. For Jerusalem, this is the fourth time that the court has dealt with the issue.

The petitioners, Meretz and the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, are asking that Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Levy name his candidates for the council.

In Tel Aviv, the only bar to convening the religious council is the ruling of an interministerial committee, which was to have decided on objections concerning the candidates.

The committee met, but came to no decision. In Haifa and Kiryat Tivon, the religious affairs minister has not named his candidates for the council.



Evicting the homeless

Avi Sasson points to one of the eviction notices Jerusalem police posted yesterday on the backs of the seven families remaining in the tent camp opposite the Prime Minister's Office. Fire officials pointed out that their continued presence on the site poses a threat of more fires like that which broke out last week or the collapse of the unsteady structures. Jerusalem officials are asking the Housing Ministry to provide a \$500 monthly rent subsidy to the families for an unspecified time period. (Israel Hersh)

The problems of 'cyber-terrorism'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Experts from Japan, Russia and the United States are gathering today in Holon for a unique conference about the problem of "cyber-terrorism."

The face of terrorism is changing and the new terrorist may strike with the click of a computer mouse, explained Prof. Yonah Alexander, director of the Inter University Center for Terrorism Studies, and an organizer of the conference entitled "Threats of the

Technological Age."

"We are trying to raise the awareness and consciousness of cyber-terrorism. We are not going to develop a strategy of panic or fear, but rather try to anticipate the future trends and developments and learn some lessons from past experiences," Alexander said.

Speakers will include Dr. Stanislav Rodionov, a Russian scientist involved in creating nuclear bombs that can fit in a suitcase, as well as former US military officials involved in

combating cyber-terrorism. Topics on the agenda include the use of the Internet by terrorists, nuclear, biological and chemical terrorism and global warming.

The conference is sponsored by the The Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies, The Center for Technological Education in Holon, the Terrorism Studies program of The George Washington University, and the Morris E. Curiel Center for International Studies at Tel Aviv University.

MKs consider regulating matchmaking firms

By LIAT COLLINS

The police receive hundreds of complaints a year from individuals looking for romance through matchmaking companies and who say instead they found only heartache.

At a meeting of the Public Complaints Committee at the Knesset yesterday, chairman Rafi Elul (Labor) discussed the possibility of regulating the matchmaking market through legislation.

Representatives of the agencies also expressed support for the idea, saying rogue companies affected them all.

Most of the complaints were from

women who said they had paid a matchmaking service "but not received the goods" and felt cheated.

Some said they received no service at all, and others that only a few candidates were sent to them over several months and those they met did not meet their criteria.

Police Chief Superintendent Roni Hindi, from the Tel Aviv Fraud Squad, said the police are powerless to take any action, because it is not a criminal offense to fail to provide a service in this way.

The lack of regulation in the field means there are no precise figures for matchmaking agencies,

but there are presumed to be some 100, roughly half of them operating in the center of the country.

Both the sums demanded from the different companies and the conditions vary considerably, ranging from some NIS 2,000 to \$10,000. The average price appears to be NIS 5,000.

Elul called the situation "scandalous" and said many of the people who felt cheated were too embarrassed to file a complaint. He said he would prepare a private member's bill on regulating the market but stressed there are also serious companies.

Matchmaker Helen Amram, who

attended the committee meeting, praised Elul's initiative. Most agreed there is a need to prevent "fly-by-night" companies.

There are all sorts of companies which have sprung up like mushrooms after the rain and are charging fantastic sums without providing a service," said Rika of "Benei Kencha" [Build your Nest]. "I think it is a good idea to regulate it to protect both serious companies and the clients."

The committee called on the people who felt they had been cheated to file complaints and suggested establishing an association regulating member companies.

Habad joins the Nahal

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Twenty haredi youths from the Habad movement are being drafted into the IDF's Nahal Brigade this morning as part of a reinvigorated attempt by the Defense Ministry to get more of the fervently religious to join the army.

The Defense Ministry has also launched an ambitious plan to encourage Orthodox young men in Brooklyn to come to Israel and join the Nahal.

"I want to open an information bureau through the Habad movement to convince them to come to Eretz Israel and serve in the army," said Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yehuda Duvdevani, head of the Defense Ministry's Youth, Nahal and National Missions Branch.

"We are taking our war to the Diaspora. The Jewish youth there need to take part in our country and contribute to our army, especially now that we are in our 50th year," he said. Duvdevani said he would travel to Habad headquarters in Brooklyn shortly to coordinate recruitment logistics.

Duvdevani said his efforts are not just directed at haredim, and that he supports efforts to persuade any Jewish youth from around the world to join the

Nahal.

He said that scores of active IDF officers will be visiting Diaspora communities to speak about their military service in an attempt to entice Jewish men and women to make aliyah and serve in the IDF. Besides haredi Habad youth in Brooklyn, Duvdevani's program is also targeting the sons and daughters of Israeli emigres.

"We will market this program to be a soldier," said Duvdevani.

"Wherever there are Jewish youth, be they secular or observant or haredi, we will try to awaken in them this spirit," he told *The Jerusalem Post*. "The idea is for all Diaspora youth to participate in Israel."

Duvdevani, who has made it his mission to rejuvenate the Nahal's 50th Battalion into the elite airborne unit it once was, says that there is room there for all streams of youth today.

Duvdevani dismissed skepticism from top IDF commanders who have questioned the suitability of the haredim for the army. "They are welcome with their *peyot* and everything else they are bringing with them," said Duvdevani. "They are going to be fighters," he said.

Habad leaders say they don't hold military service as important

as Torah study, but are not opposed to their young men serving.

The 20 Habad youth being conscripted today have chosen the military path over continued Torah study, said Rabbi Moshe Adri, their liaison with Habad. Adri said that Habad-linked haredim have consistently joined the Nahal in small groups, but that today's group is the largest ever.

The haredim will be assigned to a company made up entirely of observant soldiers, he said.

Following 18 months of combat duty, they will spend a year in a religious community as part of national service. There will be no separate period for strictly Torah study.

"Habad is like Coca Cola. We are everywhere. I am Habad in the army. If they have free time I will fill it up," Adri said. "I will meet with them and give them concentrated Torah during their service. It's a dunam here and a dunam there, but in the end it's a lot."

Adri, who has worked with Habad soldiers for 30 years, said that in the past haredi soldiers have not turned secular. "Our opinion is if you can't learn then go serve," Adri said. "But really we prefer they not abandon their heritage and stay on in the yeshiva as soldiers in God's army."

1,000 women imported for sex

Every year some 1,000 women are brought from the former Soviet Union to work as prostitutes, according to the Israel Women's Network lawyer Rachel Ben-Zimran, who appeared before the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women.

A representative from the State Attorney's Office said that in 1997, 89 files on prostitution were opened, 15 for pimping and only four to five for forcibly importing women.

The committee was told that many of the exploited women were afraid to file a complaint.

The head of Neveh Tirzah Women's Prison, Betty Lahav, said: "I can't encourage them to testify because the minute they are deported a pimp is waiting for them at the airport - it's an international network."

The meat law

The Knesset's Law Committee yesterday pushed through the so-called "Meat Law" - an amendment to the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation - for a second and third reading. It is due to come up in the Knesset plenum today. Committee Chairman Hanan Porat (NRP) rearranged the committee's schedule for a hasty review of the

AT THE KNESSET

bill which would extend a four-year time limit on a ban on the import of non-kosher meat.

Small claims

As of April 1, the country's Small Claims Courts will deal with claims of up to NIS 15,000. Before being raised yesterday by the Knesset Law Committee the maximum sum had been NIS 8,000.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat said the aim of the change was to take some pressure off the magistrates courts.

Some 60,000 cases are brought before small claims courts annually, courts director Yitzhak Revivi said.

Independence Day

"Anyone who sees Independence Day as a day of mourning does not see himself as part of the state and cannot complain there is no equality or freedom," Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Katsav, who has jurisdiction for Arab affairs, told the Knesset yesterday.

Summer time

Daylight saving time starts tomorrow but there is still a question about how long it will be until the clocks are turned back. The Knesset Interior Committee is recommending that Interior Minister Eli Shussan extend summer time by two weeks. MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) had asked for an extension until October 15.

Religious affairs

A meeting of the Knesset's State Control Committee called to discuss the State Comptroller's report criticizing the distribution of funding for Torah and haredi culture, was dispersed yesterday after senior officials of the Religious Affairs Ministry failed to appear.

Where to eat in Israel

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Beit El rabbi testifies in court

Har-Shefi asked about 'din rodef'

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Months before the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin hundreds of people turned to Beit El rabbi Shlomo Aviner for an opinion on the *din rodef* concept as regards Rabin, the rabbi said in court yesterday.

Aviner was testifying in the trial of Margalit Har-Shefi, a friend of Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, who has been charged with having advance knowledge of the assassination plot but of failing to report it to the authorities.

The 22-year old Bar-Ilan University stu-

dent has pleaded innocent.

Defense lawyer Seffi Alon summoned Aviner, the rabbi of Har-Shefi's community, to testify in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court about his conversation with the accused about a month before the assassination.

Aviner said that Har-Shefi, like many others, requested his opinion on the concept of *din rodef* as she wanted to know how to react to discussions among university students on the subject of *din rodef* Rabin.

"She turned to me for ideological ammunition to deal with these statements," Aviner said.

He said that he told Har-Shefi that he objects to violence and that *din rodef* does not apply to Jews. He said Har-Shefi approached him because she knew of his extreme objections to violence.

He said that Har-Shefi did not mention Amir's name or any plot to assassinate Rabin.

Prosecutor Pina Guy countered by saying that Aviner had told police that he could not recall the conversation he had with Har-Shefi. Aviner confessed that he did not remember details of his conversation with Har-Shefi and said that his testimony was based on things he generally says with

regard to the *din rodef* issue.

Dr. Aryeh Buchrach, a chemist from Beit El, testified that he had never spoken to Har-Shefi before the assassination.

Prosecutors allege that Har-Shefi had given the chemist's address to Amir so that he could enlist Buchrach's help in making bombs for attacks on Arab targets.

Buchrach said that he has no experience or training in explosives, and that he specializes in plastics.

Buchrach also supported Har-Shefi's testimony that she had given Amir false information regarding the location of Beth El's armory so that he would stop pestering her.

Mixed reactions to Vatican Holocaust document

By LISA PALMER-DELLA

Opinion quoted by Italian media the day after the issuing of the "Vatican Reflection on the Shoah" reflect perplexity and ambivalence at a document that falls short of its original promise, yet must be accepted as a timid half-step forward.

On the one hand, all agree the text contains some very positive contributions to raising Catholic consciousness, exemplified by its self-definition as "an act of repentance... for the failures of... the Catholic Church's... sons and daughters in every age." Says political commentator Arrigo Levi in *Corriere della Sera*, "It may be asked whether the Nazi persecution of the Jews was not made easier by the anti-Jewish prejudices imbedded in some Christian minds and hearts."

On the other hand, there is also consensus regarding the document's failings, such as the rigid distinction made between theological anti-Judaism and pagan anti-Semitism. Not enough is said about how the former prepared for and supported the latter - even in the face of Nazism's anti-Christian nature.

Similarly, the pope himself by far outpaces his critics in his outspokenness and warmth, and his courage to admit the wrongs of the past. In his "Apostolic Letter on the Third Millennium," John Paul II referred to the sin of "acquiescence" to the violation of human rights under totalitarian regimes, whereas this document speaks only of "insensitivity" and "indifference."

The sin of collaboration with the Nazi regime by some members of the Church (such as Monsignor Tiso of Slovakia's clerical-fascist regime) is not even considered. Sins throughout history are attributed to individual Christians, never the Church as an institution.

Italian Jewish leaders such as Tullia Zevi and Rabbi Elie Toeff note that the quotations of statements by Jewish representatives in support of Pius XII immediately after the war do not reflect the necessary historical distance for more objective questioning of his official silence.

The time taken to produce the document - 10 and a half years to write 14 pages meant "a page and a half per year" as some said - and the "cooler" semiology compared to previous drafts and the pope's own statements, are evidence the inner tensions of the Church regarding relations with Jews and Judaism are still strong.



Greeting Russian immigrants

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak greets delegates of the Russian Olim Organization yesterday at a convention in Jerusalem marking 25 years since its founding.

(Ariel Jerusalem)

Three Palestinian grave robbers arrested

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The Antiquities Authority's unit for preventing robberies recently caught three Palestinians raiding an unopened 2,000-year-old burial cave near Neveh Ilan, a moshav in the Jerusalem Corridor.

The three said they were searching for a gold treasure, said Antiquities Authority spokeswoman Osnat Gaoz.

She said members of the unit for preventing robberies, backed by border policemen, laid in ambush over the weekend after discovering tracks earlier last week. The three Palestinians arrived at the opening of the cave and started breaking into it when they were captured, Gaoz said.

The cave was in Wadi Kafira which follows

the Green Line. Archaeologists have discovered a number of burial caves and ruins dating from the Second Temple and Hellenistic periods there, she said. But the grave robbers struck before they could be excavated.

The grave robbers had a metal detector, which is illegal, a commando knife, binoculars, and various digging instruments, Gaoz said.

"The cave had never been opened before and they damaged it," Gaoz said.

She said various ancient items were later found inside, but declined to elaborate or give the exact location of the cave out of fear others may try to reach the site.

The three Palestinians were from the nearby village of Katana and are being held in Jerusalem's Russian Compound jail until they

post NIS 3,000 bail each and an Israeli guarantor they will show up for trial. They are to be charged with being in Israel without a permit and carrying out an illegal dig. That crime has a three-year maximum sentence.

"The problem is they live in Palestinian-controlled territory and once they return there, you never know if they'll stand trial," Gaoz said.

She said that last week four other Palestinians from the same village were captured robbing a grave near the Pisgat Ze'ev section of Jerusalem.

"It is turning into a habit with this village," Gaoz said. "The reason that there is a plague is because it is easier to dig in the spring. And I presume that the economic situation is so bad that they think they can make easy money robbing antiquities."

Negev Beduin fight to prevent land transfer

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A coalition of Beduin leaders from the Negev and civil rights groups has launched a campaign to prevent millions of dunams of government-owned land there from being transferred to the Jewish Agency to prevent its use by local Beduin.

According to opponents of the plan, the National Infrastructure Ministry is interested in making the deal to prevent "hostile elements" from taking over the land.

A ministry spokeswoman preferred to use the term "foreign elements" and said the matter was "still under consideration."

Hassan Abu-Kwidar, one of the leaders of the Coalition of Organizations for the Rights of

Unrecognized Settlements in the Negev, representing dozens of unrecognized Beduin settlements in the Negev where some 60,000 Beduin reside, said the plan would "take land belonging to all of the state's citizens and give it to just a portion of those citizens."

He explained that under a 1952 law, the Jewish Agency - unlike the government, which must issue tenders open to all citizens - is barred from leasing, selling or renting land to non-Jews.

If the land in question is transferred to the agency, he said, he and other Beduin would be barred from purchasing plots if community settlements are built on it or using it for any other purpose.

"The government is taking property that belongs to all the citizens

of Israel and through an administrative trick giving it to only a portion of those citizens," Abu-Kwidar said yesterday.

He said the Beduin are still disputing ownership of the lands in question with the government, which he said are still not registered in the land registry.

"If such a thing happened in another country and Jewish citizens of a state were barred from purchasing land somewhere, there would be a terrible outcry. This is an attempt by the government to pull a fast one in order to discriminate against some of its citizens," he said.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg met with coalition representatives on the matter in Jerusalem on Monday and

promised to look into it further.

He said he would visit the area personally after Pessah, because as chairman of the Zionist movement he wanted to see the way those living with him and alongside him in the same state live.

Burg explained that the plan to transfer the land to the agency was based on a debt the agency claims it is owed by the government for its investment in real estate leased to settlers, with the government having proposed paying it by transferring the land to the agency.

However Burg said that during a meeting held Monday attended by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, the debt was disputed, and it was decided to investigate it further.

NEWS

in brief

Murder in TA up more than a third in '97

There were 35 murders in the Tel Aviv Police District last year, as opposed to 26 in 1996, an increase of more than a third. This emerged at a press conference called by the district yesterday to present its 1997 statistics.

While 57% of the murders were solved in 1996, only 54% were solved last year. There was also a 33% increase in robberies and a 22.5% increase in armed robberies. Last year, the district handled 89,000 cases, a 12% increase over the 79,000 in 1996. *lim*

Russian immigrants protest for Ben-Ari

Some 2,000 Russian immigrants demonstrated opposite the Knesset yesterday in solidarity with Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner), arrested last year and charged with carrying out bank fraud and other financial crimes totalling some \$100 million. MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) told the rally Ben-Ari's trial opening next week will decide his guilt or innocence. *lim*

Bill approved for Begin memorial site

The Knesset Education Committee yesterday approved a bill to create a remembrance site in Jerusalem in honor of the late prime minister Menachem Begin. The site would be a venue for paying tribute to the memory, activities and heritage of Begin, and would include an archive, a memorial site and a research center.

The bill is expected to come up for a final vote in the Knesset next week. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Unemployment for new immigrants falling

Unemployment among new immigrants fell to 6.7 percent this year, down from 9.4% in 1995, the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee was told yesterday. However, 16% of job-seekers are immigrants, according to the Employment Service. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

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Blame El Nato

International attitudes are harder to turn around than a loaded supertanker. In the eight years since the fall of Communism, no one has really managed to turn around the Cold War.

True, it's not like the old days: the Cold War is a shadow of its former self. No spy novelists prowling the sewers of Vienna or the dark drab streets of East Berlin or Prague. A paranoid Pentagon no longer succeeds (it tries) to wring another 500 billion dollars out of Congress for a project to send mice filled with exploding nukes to circle the Earth and shoot down missiles.

Instead, American businessmen roam Moscow selling capitalist tools. John Le Carré writes about boring drug barons or even more boring Chechen rebels.

But many fondly cling to remnants of the bad-old days. Russia clings to its bad-old friends like Iraq, Iran and Serbia so long as they have — or might have — money or influence. Being a nouveau capitalist, it's a bit cooler on poorer old friends like Fidel Castro or Hafez Assad.

The West clings to NATO — the Pentagon's cut-throat to those juicy billions, and to keeping the teeth of those closet Russian commies. And France is still France.

Sob, sob

The best way to make a French or Russian politician cringe these days is to pepper one's conversation with phrases like "the leader of the free world" when referring to Bill Clinton, or "the world's only superpower" when referring to where he lives.

The post-Cold War world has changed, but not enough. Too many people prefer the familiar to the unknown, too many still miss the certainties of the bisected world of capitalism, Communism and their fawning line-up of opportunist allies. Americans knew who their friends were on the fringes beyond democracy: South American military fascists, African dictators, pliant Asians, Afghans, sons of bitches one and all, but "our SOB's."

Soviets knew who their friends were: Arab states that massacred their domestic Communists, non-Aligned grovelers, African dictators, pliant Asians, South American terrorists — sons-of-bitches one and all, but "our SOB's."

Recently it has been clear to see a Russian drift back to some old Soviet friends in defiance of the "leader of the free world." We see too the reemergence of France's old policy of a foot in both camps. President Jacques Chirac flexing some Gaulle-ist muscle billed as independent French policy.

Queasy does it

France likes to trumpet its surviving "independent deterrent"

but it is better known for being a dependent irritant.

France, alongside Russia, made a big bluster of concern for "the Iraqi people" and a diplomatic solution to last month's crisis, yet had diplomacy failed, France would have gone along with bombing the stuffing out of Saddam's infrastructure.

So too, while it cozies up to Russia and coos in agreement with Moscow's "concerns," France did not oppose the expansion of NATO eastwards into former Soviet satellite states. Which brings us back to NATO expansion. This must be one of the more idiotic of post-Cold War decisions in the eyes of anyone who supported a real new-world order, friendship with Russia, calling French bluffs, European self-reliance and other good stuff, as opposed to reviving old suspicions and antagonisms and other bad stuff.

For anyone sitting in Moscow, the entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech republic into the old NATO structure looks a little too much like shifting Western Europe's eastern border. The last two times Europeans tried to shift the border east, Russia ended up fighting off Napoleon's imperialist bullies and Hitler's lunatic vampires. Pardon the Russians for being just a little wary.

But even in the depths of the old Cold War, Charles de Gaulle had a vision of a Europe stretching (by consent of all concerned) from Ireland to the Urals.

Wish list

It was a vision the European Union should have sold to the Russians — let the French do that — without mounting the NATO blunderbuss on top of it.

When the Warsaw Pact was abolished, and all its troops, equipment and procedures for defending the European Union should have been transferred to a rejuvenated Western European Union (WEU).

Russians will always view the very name of NATO as anti-Russian just as Americans would view the names "Soviet Union" or "Warsaw Pact" as anti-Western.

The WEU was founded in 1955 by seven European states, mainly as a back door for bringing West Germany into NATO, which assumed the anti-Soviet role of defending Europe. At the end of the Cold War, it would have made sense to transfer NATO's stock and budget to the WEU.

Jose Cutileiro, secretary-general of the WEU said in an article this week that the WEU "will run operations that Europeans decide to undertake and in which North Americans do not wish to participate." He wishes! Not while NATO rules the roost. When the next chilly breeze of more old-Cold policy blow out of Russia, don't blame it on El Nino. Blame it on El Nato.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Congress's moral crusade

As questions over President Clinton's personal probity linger, proposals emanating from Capitol Hill are aimed at halting 'the spread of vice' within the US

By EDWIN CHEN

WASHINGTON — Quit smoking. Drink less. Don't gamble: but if you must, honor your debts.

Amid a flurry of such exhortations, Congress is embarking on an extraordinary legislative crusade to combat what many members consider a coarsening of America's moral fiber.

In the huge highway-spending bill passed by the Senate last Thursday were new crackdowns — encouraged by President Clinton — on drunken driving.

The anti-smoking fervor on Capitol Hill — also fanned by the White House — is likely to yield new deterrents against that vice. And legislation to ban online gambling and curb access to pornography on the Internet is picking up fresh momentum.

Even the emerging debates on revamping personal bankruptcy laws and providing new money for the International Monetary Fund are imbued with moral overtones.

"I hesitate to use this word, but could all this be an expression of... values?" asked Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.).

"People may feel well off economically, but they also feel the country is not going in the right direction morally and culturally," said Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.).

The emergence of such a broad array of "values" initiatives is partly a coincidence. But as questions over Clinton's personal probity linger, the proposals emanating from Capitol Hill also reflect a public desire to "recalibrate the moral compass of America," said Randy Tate, executive director of the conservative Christian Coalition.

"The nation is searching for some old ways of doing things," added House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas), a leading proponent of legislating values. "We need to address the spread of vices that are encroaching deeper and deeper into our lives."

ALTHOUGH MOST of the pending issues enjoy bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans nevertheless are jockeying for an edge with an eye toward the November elections.

As Armey said in a recent memo to his GOP colleagues: "I believe the issues of values and morality will be the dominant issues of 1998 and 2000."

Some members, however, question the ability of Congress — with its extensive history of sex and booze scandals — to lead a spiritual awakening. As Sen. John B.reaux (D-La.) put it: "Congress doesn't have a great deal of credibility in that area."

Armey conceded: "Americans are wary of politicians trying to manipulate these issues."

One example of the congressional double standard: Although smoking in public buildings all over America is no longer allowed, it is all but unrestricted in the Capitol, where hordes of unsuspecting tourists can round a

corner and find themselves enveloped in thick clouds of tobacco fumes.

Since taking control of Congress three years ago, the Republicans have advanced numerous proposals with overt moral dimensions, such as a ban on "partial-birth" abortions.

But as Armey acknowledged in his January 16 memo to fellow House Republicans: "We have failed to advance other issues, particularly economic issues, in moral terms. This has allowed us to be defined by dollar signs, and we can't allow it to continue."

At the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington research organization, Armey said last Wednesday that the drive to ban the "marriage penalty" — the extra tax paid by married couples compared to unmarried couples who live together and file separate returns — must be presented not as an economic issue but as a Republican "endorsement of morality."

He is injecting the same moral dimension into the nascent GOP drive to reform personal bankruptcy laws.

Until about 15 years ago, bankruptcy filings rose during recessions and fell during prosperity. But since 1985, at least 10 million Americans have filed for personal bankruptcy — more than half of all filings since federal laws were enacted a century ago. Armey blames the ease of filing and the diminishing stigma associated with bankruptcy.

Reforming the system must be "about people's responsibility to creditors," he said. Filing for bankruptcy once brought "embarrassment," he added, but now "it stigmatizes you if you don't."

In short, he concluded, bankruptcy reform is "about the character of a nation."

The controversy over IMF funding raises the same issue, he argued.

"For us to continue to prop up bad business decisions made by imprudent businessmen, I think, spreads that sort of character erosion."

ONE PROMINENT social critic, however, says the White House and the GOP-controlled Congress are paying insufficient attention to combating illicit drug use, which is rising, especially among teenagers.

"Neither has been very active," said conservative commentator William J. Bennett, who was drug czar during the Bush administration. "What's the problem? I don't get it."

Among the recent Capitol Hill developments on an array of "values" initiatives:

The House Judiciary Committee on March 4 approved a resolution condemning legalization of marijuana, even for medicinal use.

The Senate Commerce Committee on March 12 passed legislation to restrict Internet distribution of pornography by requiring a personal identifica-

tion number or a credit card number before such images can be accessed.

The same panel also voted to end federal Internet subsidies to schools and libraries that do not install equipment to block indecent materials that can be found on about 28,000 pornographic sites.

The Senate this spring will consider prohibiting on-line gambling by extending the federal ban on interstate gambling via telephone or wire to include computers and the Internet.

The Treasury Department, meanwhile, is conducting a \$200,000 study of the link between gambling and personal bankruptcies, and a nine-member national commission is examining the effects of the rapid spread

of legal gambling across the nation.

According to the International Union of Gospel Missions, 18 percent of homeless men and women at rescue missions cited gambling as a cause of their plight.

Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Mo.), called the group's March 12 survey "a fireball in the night, warning America against the terrible effects of legalized gambling on individuals, families and the culture."

Bernie Horn, communications director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, said that until a few years ago, Congress abetted the spread of gambling.

Now, by contrast, Sen. Orrin G.

Hatch (R-Utah), is talking about creating "gambling-free children's zones" near schools and prohibiting children in casinos.

In the highway-spending bill, the Senate set a tough national standard for determining when a driver is legally drunk and banned open alcohol containers in moving vehicles.

On tobacco, Congress is considering a \$1.50 per-pack increase in the cigarette tax as well as broadening the jurisdiction of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco products.

New restrictions on tobacco ads directed at minors, as well as new smoking-cessation programs, are also under consideration. (Los Angeles Times)

Senator spouts a quaint idea: Politicians as moral leaders

By JANET HOOK

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Ashcroft has an idea that seems almost quaint these days: Political leaders should also be moral leaders for the nation.

"Leaders are teachers," the Missouri Republican says. "What we condone, we reinforce. What we condemn, we diminish."

That's a maverick concept at a time when many people, far from looking to politicians as moral exemplars, assume they are a pack of crooks, philanderers and schemers.

But it's an idea that has driven Ashcroft to become one of the first and most pointed critics of US President Clinton's response to allegations that he had sex with a former White House intern.

It also inspired Ashcroft to criticize fellow Republicans recently for meeting at a glitzy Mississippi casino ("Our party should not sell its soul to the gambling lobby," he scolded). And, if he's lucky, it will help make him the darling of GOP social and religious conservatives as he pursues his long shot idea of running for president in 2000.

There are few darker horses in the field of potential candidates for the GOP nomination than Ashcroft. When New Hampshire Republicans recently were asked their preferences, he landed at the bottom of a long list of wannabes.

But of late, Ashcroft, 55, has begun cropping up in the middle of various Senate debates to espouse conservative dogma. He crusaded against Clinton's judicial nominees for their alleged liberal activism. And he sought to block Dr. David Satcher's appointment as US surgeon-general for his views on abortion.

He was elected to the Senate in 1994, part of the crowd that helped the Republicans win control of Congress by espousing a more confrontational, anti-Washington, pro-family brand of conservatism.

The fate of Ashcroft's political ambitions will be one measure of how much the GOP, after an interlude of "compromising with Clinton," wants to return to that tack as it heads into the presidential election.

"A YEAR from now we may be really looking for a true, undiluted conservative who can win the election," said Wayne Berman, an Ashcroft friend and finance director of the Republican Governors Association. "A centrist Republican isn't going to beat a centrist Democrat."

Ashcroft is trying to elbow his way out of obscurity into a field that has no commanding front-runner. But he is up against potential candidates for better known than he, including Texas Governor George W. Bush and former presidential candidate Steve Forbes.

His strategy hinges on grabbing the GOP's hard-core conservative base, backers who can help propel an obscure candidate into contention. A recent straw poll of leaders of the Christian Coalition, identified Ashcroft as their top choice for president.

Indeed, if those leaders could design their own presidential candidate, they might trace the outlines of Ashcroft's life story. He is the son and grandson of Assemblies-of-God ministers. He is married to a business law professor and is the father of three children. He's a churchgoing man who begins every day with devotionals. He's a teetotaler. He composes gospel music. He is writing a book.

about the moral wisdom of his father, who died the day after he saw Ashcroft sworn into the Senate.

"There is no question he is a devoted Christian," said Sen. Larry B. Craig (R-Idaho). "He's not just modeling his character to fit the issue. He lives that life and he believes it."

But there's another side of Ashcroft that is a little less strait-laced.

While on his farm in Missouri, he does a denim jacket and rides his motorcycle. His prize possession is a zippy yellow 1973 Mustang convertible. He keeps an electric keyboard in his Senate office and sings baritone in a quartet, the Singing Senators, that also features Craig, Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), and Sen. James M. Jeffords (R-Vt.).

But neither the ministry nor music ever really competed with politics for Ashcroft's career ambitions. A lawyer, Ashcroft was elected Missouri attorney general in 1976 and served as Missouri's governor for two terms from 1984-92.

But for all his political experience, Ashcroft has positioned himself as something of an outsider in Washington. He strongly favors congressional term limits (he has said that he will serve only two terms). He opposed the budget-balancing deal crafted by Clinton and his own party leaders last year.

In general, Ashcroft seems averse to half-a-loaf politics. That may make him ill-suited to legislative life, but it could tap into voters' aversion to Washington wheeling and dealing.

"If you start out focusing on the doable, you give away too much," he says. "If you focus on the noble, you change the definition of the doable." (Los Angeles Times)

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Yeltsin cancels meetings due to illness

By GREG MYRE

MOSCOW (AP) — An ailing President Boris Yeltsin yesterday canceled all meetings this week and will rest in bed on the orders of doctors concerned about possible complications related to his sore throat.

The Russian leader, who contracted a respiratory infection and lost his voice last week, had been expected to stick to an active schedule this week, aides had said. But the president set aside all planned events, including tomorrow's summit of leaders from the former Soviet republics, indicating that he is not recovering as quickly as previously reported.

"As usual, he was very eager to attend the [summit] meeting," Valentin Yumashev, chief of the

presidential administration, was quoted by the ITAR-Tass news agency. "But he has a severe cold, a bad cough and there's a danger of complications."

Yeltsin remained "partially bed-ridden" and is taking antibiotics at his suburban residence, Gorky-9, west of Moscow, the Kremlin's press service said.

Yeltsin's doctors urged him to speak as little as possible to avoid further strain on his vocal chords.

Tomorrow's summit in Moscow was to include most or all of the 12 presidents in the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose grouping of the former Soviet republics.

The meeting was originally planned for December, but had to be postponed because Yeltsin was suffering from a bad cold. It was



President Boris Yeltsin (Reuters)

rescheduled for January, and delayed again until March. The leaders are now aiming for a meet-

ing around the end of April.

Yeltsin still plans to go ahead with a March 25-26 summit with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac in Yekaterinburg, Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

The 67-year-old Yeltsin has suffered a string of health problems in recent years, raising questions about his ability to govern effectively. He had heart bypass surgery in November 1996, and two months later he came down with pneumonia. He also was hospitalized with a bad cold for two weeks in December.

Yeltsin has resumed a busy schedule after each illness and has made clear his intention to serve out his term, which runs until 2000.

Yesterday's announcement came

only a day after friends and aides said that Yeltsin was on the road to recovery.

Mstislav Rostropovich, the world-renowned cellist and conductor, claimed credit Monday for persuading the Russian leader to stay home to continue convalescing.

Rostropovich and his wife, opera diva Galina Vishnevskaya, visited Yeltsin at his suburban residence on Sunday, and the cellist said he had "absolutely no worries" about the president's health.

"There was no end to our delight when we saw him robust and braced up," Rostropovich, a longtime friend of the president, told reporters. He said that Yeltsin was hoarse and, because he was on antibiotics, "he could not drink even a little alcohol."

Poll: 60% say Clinton involved in sexual misconduct

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Sixty percent of Americans are inclined to believe US President Bill Clinton has been involved in a pattern of sexual misconduct, according to an ABC News poll released yesterday.

Nearly two-thirds, or 63%, believe he should resign if he lied about it under oath, according to the poll, taken Monday following the appearance of former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey on CBS.

Willey told the network Clinton groped her — touching her breasts and putting his hand on her genitals — in the White House near the Oval Office in 1993.

The ABC poll was conducted by telephone among a random sample of 655 adults. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4%.

While there was apparently some damage from the Willey appearance, 70% said he should remain in office based on what



Kathleen Willey (AP)

is known now and 63% approved of his performance in office.

The rates for personal popularity, honesty and personal morals were the worst of his presidency,



President Bill Clinton (Reuters)

the poll showed.

"To the statement, 'He is honest and trustworthy,' 60% answered no and 35% answered yes, with the remainder undecided.

"To the statement, 'He has high

personal moral and ethical standards,' 66% answered no, 28% answered yes and the rest were undecided.

"To the question, 'Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Clinton?' 50% answered 'favorable' and 46% voted 'unfavorable.'"

On Willey's accusation, those polled showed an even split on whether they believed her or the president and 58% believed it was nobody's business but that of the two people involved.

If the president lied under oath and didn't resign, 53% would favor impeachment and 50% would favor impeachment if he lied under oath about the incident with Willey.

On the plus side, 78% said he had done a good job with the economy; 63% called him a strong leader and 62% said he understood the problems of "average people."

Philippines president to probe 'murder plot'

MANILA (Reuters) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos yesterday ordered an investigation into allegations that his vice president — the man widely tipped to succeed him — had ordered his assassination.

"This is a very serious matter and the investigative agencies must, without any delay, look into it," Ramos told reporters.

Vice President Joseph Estrada, a former film star who has a wide lead in opinion polls ahead of May's presidential election, dismissed the allegation as "black propaganda" to destroy him politically. House Speaker Jose de Venecia, whom Ramos would prefer as his successor, is well behind Estrada in the polls.

The alleged plot to murder Ramos was the latest in a mounting wave of accusations by opponents against the popular former actor. A former top police aide of Estrada told a press conference on Monday the vice president ordered him as early as in 1992 to kill Ramos so that he could take over power immediately.

"If we wait for 1998 [the election], I'd be a doddering old man," police colonel Reynaldo Berroya said yesterday, a statement from a magazine said.

Berroya spent four years in prison after being convicted in a case filed by Estrada accusing him of involvement in the kidnapping for ransom of a businessman from Taiwan. He was freed last December after the Supreme Court overturned the conviction.

"After being released from the national penitentiary, he [Berroya] should have been taken straight to the national mental hospital. There are more [allegations] to come but I'm prepared," Estrada said.

China names economic reformer Zhu Rongji as premier

By ELIANE KOSMINSKA

BEIJING (AP) — China's legislature yesterday endorsed as premier a tough and talented reformer whose expertise is needed to salvage crumbling state industries and banks and create jobs for millions of unemployed workers.

The National People's Congress gave a solid mandate to Zhu Rongji, a vice premier who has overseen economic policy for five years, electing him by a vote of 2,890 to 60.

Zhu, 69, replaced Li Peng, who had served the legal limit of two five-year terms. Li, No. 2 in the

Communist Party hierarchy, was named Monday to head the legislature, allowing him to retain much of his influence over policy making.

After the vote was announced, Zhu stood and gestured his thanks to the assembly. The delegates applauded enthusiastically, and Li stood and shook Zhu's hand. Only then did Zhu smile. "I'm very happy, Zhu's election really reflects our wishes. He has become a hero for the people," said Ma Ma'ao, a delegate from central Henan province and a local party leader.

In keeping with the party's penchant for carefully orchestrated public politics, Zhu ran unop-

posedly making his appointment certain. Only 2 percent of the delegates cast votes opposing Zhu, compared with the embarrassingly high 11 percent who voted against Li's appointment Monday.

Party leaders have turned to Zhu at a critical juncture. More than a third of state industries are insolvent and banks forced to lend to them are virtually bankrupt. At the same time, the Asian financial crisis is eroding exports and investment and undermining growth.

Zhu is said to have drafted far-reaching government reforms, approved by the congress last week, to reduce central ministries

from 40 to 29, cut the 8 million-member bureaucracy by as much as half, and prevent the government from meddling in business.

He also is behind the party's decision last fall to let ailing state companies use stock issues, bankruptcy, and other capitalist medicine to restore profitability and plans to restore credibility to state banks by imposing sounder lending practices.

Just how much power Li and party General Secretary Jiang Zemin will give Zhu to accomplish those ambitious tasks will be seen in how many of his own supporters the congress installs in the cabinet today.

Armenian election headed for run-off

YEREVAN (AP) — Voters choosing their next president and a new course for struggling Armenia picked their current prime minister over the former Communist Party boss but a run-off still appeared likely, according to election results yesterday.

The final count is unlikely to deliver to Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan the more than 50 percent of votes necessary for an outright victory. He is expected to face Soviet-era party boss Karen Demirchian in a run-off on March 30.

Turnout in Monday's election was a high 65%, fueled by public frustration over rising unemployment, falling social benefits, and the former president's reputation for corruption.

Kocharyan, who has been prime minister for a year, is seen as an accomplished administrator who will use his experience to put the government and economy to rights.

Demirchian is praised for the stability and relative prosperity he brought to Armenia during the 14 years he served as its top Soviet official.

He is also admired for his business success in recent years as director of an electrical equipment plant. With 65% of the vote counted by yesterday, Kocharyan had 39%, ahead of Demirchian's 28%, according to the Central Election Commission. Both ran as independents.

The Communist Party's official candidate, Sergei Badalian, had received 14% of the vote, and Vazgen Manukian, head of the opposition National Democratic Union party, had 12%. The rest of the vote was divided between eight minor candidates.

Thousands of Catholics mark St. Patrick's Day in Belfast

BELFAST (AP) — A St. Patrick's Day parade is customary in many cities in Ireland, but in Belfast several thousand Catholic marchers were breaking an old taboo in this traditionally Protestant city.

Preparations for the procession, which is held on the city's main thoroughfare, included images of Celtic crosses, harps, and snakes — the ones supposedly banished from Ireland 16 centuries ago by its patron saint.

"We're putting St. Patrick's Day on the map in Belfast," said the parade organizer, Catharina Ruane. "Traditionally the city center has been reserved for one section of the population. But we're showing

it's our city too."

Tradition holds that St. Patrick is buried in Northern Ireland, near the Protestant cathedral in Downpatrick, 30 km. south of Belfast. Most of the pilgrims arriving there by tour buses yesterday were Catholics.

"Many people in the Protestant community regret our lack of ownership of this day. We would mourn the loss of St. Patrick's Day to the nationalist community," said Adam Turkington, a Protestant community worker who was initially recruited to develop Protestant involvement in the Belfast parade, but withdrew because he felt it would be unbalanced.

Ruane defended the Belfast parade's inclusion of a group demanding the release of Irish Republican Army prisoners. "We won't get into censorship," she said.

Organizers had emphasized that a dancing troupe of boys and girls from the staunchly Protestant Shankill district would be part of the festivities at City Hall, but that group withdrew.

The featured acts included a Latin-American salsa band, a local reggae band called Breg, and a Filipino choir.

Unlike other St. Patrick's Day parades, a contingent from Belfast's chapter of Gay Pride is being welcomed. Homosexual-rights groups have been banned from parades in New York, Dublin, and Cork, Ireland's second-largest city.

WORLD

in brief

Hindu coalition agrees on governance rules

NEW DELHI (AP) — Hindu nationalists announced yesterday that they and their partners had agreed on the rules by which their disparate alliance will govern India, but said the details would be made public later.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies met and formally adopted the national agenda for governance which was comprehensive and unanimous," said BJP leader Jaswant Singh.

The document, which has been the cause of much debate and speculation, will be made public this morning by Prime Minister-designate Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Singh said.

Fund-raiser Johnny Chung pleads guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic fund-raiser Johnny Chung, who has agreed to help prosecutors probing campaign finance abuses, has pleaded guilty to charges of funneling \$20,000 in illegal contributions to the Clinton-Gore reelection bid.

Chung, 43, also pleaded guilty Monday to charges involving an \$8,000 donation to the campaign of Sen. John Kerry, tax evasion, and fraudulently obtaining a \$157,500 loan on his home. The judge scheduled sentencing for July 20.

Brandeis receives \$13m. gift for ethics center

WALTHAM, Massachusetts (AP) — Brandeis University has received a \$13 million gift to establish the International Center for Ethics, Justice, and Public Life.

The gift, one of the largest in the school's history, was made by Abraham Feinberg, a New York businessman and a former chairman of the university's board of trustees.

The center will work with the Jerusalem Foundation to establish programs at Mishkenot Sha'ananim. An initial 16 fellows will be selected from four regions of conflict: the Balkans, the Middle East, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

At least 9 drown as bridge collapses in Peru

LIMA (Reuters) — At least nine people drowned and about 20 others were feared dead after two minibuses and other vehicles plunged into a fast-flowing river as a road bridge collapsed in Peru, authorities said Monday. A further 16 people saved themselves by grabbing onto branches overhanging the river as the fast-flowing current, swollen by El Nino-driven rains, swept them away, they said. The river carried five of the survivors about 10 km downstream from the accident before they could cling onto another bridge on the outskirts of the city of Piura 1,050 km north of Lima.

Ex-UK minister Aitken held in perjury probe

LONDON (Reuters) — Disgraced former British cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was arrested yesterday over allegations of perjury dating from the collapse last year of a high-profile libel case. Media reports said Aitken offered himself for police questioning the day after his 17-year-old daughter, Victoria, was arrested over allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was not immediately charged. The former chief secretary to the Treasury took *The Guardian* newspaper and Granada Television to Britain's High Court last year over allegations they made in 1995 about his links with Saudi Arabian business associates.

3 dead in riot over Mali ritual killing

BAMAKO (Reuters) — Angry students stormed a jail in the West African state of Mali and killed two men accused of the ritual killing of one of their friends, a statement from a magistrate said yesterday. A stray bullet, fired in the air by paramilitary gun-dancers trying to guard the jail in the town of Dioila 160 km south of the capital Bamako, killed one of the students, the town's magistrate added. After forcing the security forces to flee, the students broke down the door of the jail, dragged the suspects outside, smashed their heads, and set fire to their bodies.

Turkish Kurd leaders face over 22 years in jail

ANKARA (Reuters) — A Turkish prosecutor yesterday demanded at least 22 1/2 years in jail for seven leaders of the country's main legal Kurdish party who are charged with links to Kurdish rebels. Anatolian news agency said.

It said the charge sheet prepared by state prosecutor Talat Salk accused the People's Democracy Party (HADEP) of acting as political representatives for separatist guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"It is understood that HADEP is completely under the control and the influence of the outlawed PKK organization and that the PKK carried out many of its important organizational activities by means of HADEP," the charge sheet said.

Monk convicted of preying on unguarded icons

SALONICA, Greece (AP) — A Salonica court has sentenced a monk to three years and one month in prison for stealing icons and other religious artifacts from Orthodox monasteries and hermits' huts dotted around Mount Athos in northern Greece, reports said yesterday.

Andreas Papaminas, 52, lived in various parts of the monastic community between 1990-92. He would periodically steal valuable icons and other religious artifacts in order to sell them, the court was told.

Papaminas has appealed the sentence. He was released after paying a 300,000 drachma (\$940) bail.

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US secrets emerge about the Bay of Pigs

After nearly 40 years, the CIA finally admitted that a secret squadron of US civilians was involved in the botched Cuban invasion

By MARK FINEMAN
AND DOLLY MASCARENAS

HAVANA - When Thomas "Pete" Ray's B-26 bomber was shot down by Cuban anti-aircraft batteries near Playa Giron on April 19, 1961, he wasn't there.

So said the CIA.

And for decades, the US government publicly denied that the top-secret squadron of civilians recruited from the Alabama Air National Guard ever existed, let alone was on a CIA mission to bomb Cuba in one of the agency's best-kept and most humiliating secrets.

It was the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, in which, officially, no Americans were involved.

But Ray was there. The 30-year-old Center Point, Alabama, pilot was shot to death - by a pistol and knife in hand - by one of Fidel Castro's soldiers. They also killed his flight engineer, Leo Baker, after the two bombed targets near Castro's field headquarters.

Two other Alabamians also died when their plane was shot down during the invasion, which included napalm bombing by US aircraft. They were on a mission that Col. Joe Shannon, one of the few surviving pilots from the group, recently recalled was "a last-ditch effort" that, through its very secrecy, would

change the course of many lives for decades to come.

Castro was so determined to prove the Americans were there that he froze Ray's remains - for more than 18 years.

For Ray's wife, mother and two children, those years were haunted by silent confusion and fear as the US government knew, but refused to tell, the whereabouts of a man who simply had vanished from the face of the Earth.

For the CIA, Ray's secret involved national security and image. To admit that the pilot was one of theirs was to concede the depth of the agency's involvement in a disastrous invasion that it insisted, until last year, was the work of dissidents within Cuba.

IN DECEMBER 1979, after the Cubans learned of a personal mission by Ray's daughter, Janet Ray Weininger, to find his body - and after 19 months of painstaking diplomacy with a US government that still did not want to claim him as one of its own - the Cuban government returned the pilot's body to Alabama.

The CIA still publicly has not admitted that it knew where his remains were all along. Last month, however, the agency released a document confirming

that US pilots had, in fact, been shot down over Cuba in 1961.

And last week, in response to detailed inquiries about the Ray case from the *Los Angeles Times*, agency officials acknowledged publicly for the first time that the Alabama pilot was one of theirs.

Documents obtained by the *Times* from the Cuban government, combined with recently declassified CIA memos, cables and confidential reports on the Bay of Pigs, solve much of this extraordinary Cold War mystery of the lost Alabamians.

As for the men of the secret squadron, "these were vortex people - the most important people in the world for a few moments - and then the government just cuts the strings and cuts them loose to drift," said Ray's cousin, Thomas Bailey, an Alabama journalist.

In its formal statement to the *Times* last week, the CIA also confirmed for the first time that Ray posthumously had been awarded the CIA's highest honors for bravery - the Distinguished Intelligence Cross.

Weininger said that she harbors no animosity toward the Cubans for keeping her father all those years. "I blame my government. My government did wrong. They led these men into harm's way and

then turned [their] back on them."

THE BAY of Pigs story begins about a year after Castro overthrew Cuba's US-backed dictator, Fulgencio Batista, and marched into Havana in January 1959.

In a plan hatched under President Eisenhower and executed in the first months of John F. Kennedy's presidency, the CIA plotted every ill-fated step of an invasion that was meant to appear entirely the work of dissidents within Cuba and mutinous Cuban military forces.

The CIA recruited exiled fighters from throughout the US, set up clandestine training bases in the US, Guatemala and Nicaragua and searched for planes that would match those in the Cuban air force - B-26 bombers to repaint and deploy as if Castro's military had turned on him.

The only B-26s the CIA could find in the US were in the aging fleet at the Alabama Air National Guard in Birmingham. And there, the agency also found a more-than-willing co-conspirator in the local Air Guard commander, Maj. Gen. G. Reid Doster Jr., who hated Communists everywhere.

In January 1961, the CIA picked Doster to recruit local pilots to fly, along with Cuban exiles, the disguised B-26s during the invasion.

Ray, an Alabama-native aircraft inspector at a Birmingham factory, was typical of Doster's unlikely Cold Warriors - weekend fliers who included the owner of a local pizza shop.

Weininger remembers the day her father left home for the last time: February 5, 1961. She was 6. None of the families of the dozen or so local pilots knew the men were heading to Nicaragua to prepare to bomb Cuba. The men's cover story, Col. Shannon says, was that they were going to pilot training school.

The declassified CIA documents show that the final invasion plan did bar the US pilots from joining in the bombing runs. But the exiled pilots, who had been attacking Cuban airports and other targets for three days before the invasion collapsed on April 19, "were exhausted and dispirited," according to the recently declassified documents.

By the time Ray took off from the Nicaragua base at 3:55 a.m. on April 19 for the 700-mile flight to Cuba, the invasion had failed. At the last minute, Kennedy canceled US air cover in a further effort to deny Washington's role, and the 1,500 Cubans the CIA had sent to invade were being torn to pieces on the beachhead.

Cuban Gen. Oscar Fernandez Mell, who was in charge of field

operations the morning Ray was killed, described in a recent interview how Ray's B-26 was shot down after it made several daring strafing runs.

"The airplane fell in a cane field. We ran toward it. Then there was an explosion and fire," he said. "I gave orders to recover everything inside the aircraft."

But Ray and flight engineer Baker had fled their cockpit. Witnesses told Fernandez that the pair ran into a nearby cane field. Baker was found holding a grenade; a Cuban soldier shot him. Another soldier told Fernandez that he found Ray hiding in a nearby forest, wounded but alive and armed. The soldier said he killed Ray in self-defense.

Baker, whose features appeared Latin, was buried along with other unclaimed Cuban invaders soon after. But Ray, whose features did not, was sent to Havana's Institute of Forensic Medicine, where mortician Juan Menendez Tudela, now 75, recalled embalming him.

Menendez said he placed the body in a freezer, where it remained for 18 years and eight months.

IN THE late 1970s, Bailey and Weininger sent 100 questions to the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act, asking to explain

Ray's fate. The agency never answered in writing. Instead, it sent two agents to meet them in Selma, Alabama, in the spring of 1978. There, Bailey and Weininger recalled, the agents told the truth about Ray and handed over two medals and a citation posthumously awarding Ray the Distinguished Intelligence Cross citation.

The families of the three other Alabamians killed that day also separately received similar honors. But when they did provide the posthumous award, Weininger said, "they told us not to mention anything about it to anyone."

Weininger and Bailey say - and the CIA papers declassified last month confirm - that documents they have accumulated show that the agency set up a front company in Miami that paid each dead pilot's family a regular stipend and financed children's college educations - including Weininger's. Relatives were told that the money was from a private company - not the government.

Clearly, however, the damage was not financial. Weininger said, "You can say it's an obsession, but to me it's an opportunity to look through somebody's window at a moment of history and then be able to share it with people." (Los Angeles Times)

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Nominated for Israel Theater Prize, Best Production: 'The Whore of Ohio,' starring (from left) Gabi Amrani, Gitta Munte and Rami Baruch.

Israeli playwrights steal the show

By HELEN KAYE

Nominations for the third annual Israel Theater Prize are in, with local plays the decided winners in all categories before the envelopes are even opened. The 100 or so academy members choosing this year's nominees have overwhelmingly preferred Israeli playwrights to imports.

Hanoch Levin's *Murder* and Yosefa Even-Shoshan's *The Virgin of Lodmir* lead the pack, with nine and seven nominations respectively. The rest of the nominations are spread pretty evenly among the nearly two dozen plays in the 16 categories listed.

The short list for Best Production is all Israeli. Along

with *Murder*, there's another Levin play, *The Whore from Ohio*, both from the Cameri. *Fog* by Mati Golan from Beit Lessin and the Geshen Theater's *City - Tales of Odessa* an adaptation by Mark Ivanir and Yevgeny Arye from Isaac Babel's *Tales of Odessa*.

Obviously Levin, long a local icon, is twice nominated for Best Playwright, and so is Hillel Mittelpunkt for his bittersweet *Paradise South*. Even-Shoshan is on that list too.

The nominations for Best Comedy are the Cameri's *Twelfth Night*, Beit Lessin's *Beersheba's The Venetian*, *Twins* and *Seeing Double*, a commercial comedy show starring Moni Moshonov and Avi Kushnir.

Interestingly, the nominations

for Best Director do not parallel those for Best Production, except that of Omri Nitzan for *Murder*.

The others are Ofira Henig for *Virgin*, Micha Lewensohn for *Taking Sides* and Mittelpunkt for his own play.

Best actress nominations include last year's winner, Gitta Munte for *Whore*, Yona Elyan-Keshet for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Natalya Woldewitch for *City*, and Gili Ben-Usilio for *Virgin*. Doron Tavori is up for Best Actor in *Antigone* as is Natan Damer for *Taking Sides*, Yigal Naor for *Fog* and Gabi Amrani for *Whore*.

This year actress Hanna Marron and entertainer Yossi Banai will each get life achievement awards. Banai will have to leave room on

his trophy shelf for the Israel Prize he'll be picking up on Independence Day.

CONCEIVED AS Israel's answer to the Tonys in the US or the Oliviers in the UK, the ITP continues to be controversial.

Whereas the UK/US prizes are limited to the West End and Broadway respectively, the ITP encompasses the whole country. The Tonys and Oliviers reflect only commercial theater. Here it's state-funded repertory theater that forms most of the serious competition, with commercial theater coming a very poor second.

Last year the Haifa Theater dropped out, correctly complaining that most of the academy members hadn't even seen their

plays. This year Haifa is back in, but Habimah withdrew, saying that ITP's management, which includes the heads of some of the competing theaters, constitutes a conflict of interest and is improper. And, as has been pointed out, it is questionable whether to award the accolade of Best Musical to productions which use playback.

Nonetheless, the idea of the ITP has become generally accepted. But it's clear that some of its premises and parameters need to be rethought and redefined.

Nominees Damer and Elyan-Keshet will be the emcees at the ITP ceremonies, to be held at the Noga Cinema in Jaffa on April 1. The whole affair - glitz, speeches, tears and smiles - will be broadcast live on Channel 1.

Delon and Belmondo bore French audiences

By JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG

Something surprising and wonderful has been happening in the movie theaters of France. Out of nowhere, or so it seems, a bumper crop of fresh-eyed directors, novel ideas and fine films has emerged from the dark and onto the screen.

A new "nouvelle vague" No. this trend is, well, vaguer. It has one of the movie-makers - white-haired Alain Resnais, 75, a venerable figure from the original New Wave of the late 1950s and early 1960s - rubbing elbows these days with directors and scriptwriters half his age with whom he has little if anything in common.

But there is no denying the high-voltage jolt of creativity energizing an industry that seemed stuck in the rut of below-the-belt farces, comedies about cuckolded husbands, dissections of the woes of the Paris bourgeoisie, and other tried and tired formulas. Jean-Pierre Lavoignat, director of the Paris-based film magazine *Studio*, believes French cinema has entered a time of "all possible contrasts and surprises." So much is happening, in fact, that it's hard to squeeze all of the creative developments, some contradictory, into a single space.

In the past year alone, more than a dozen French female directors brought out movies - though most, it should be noted, did not meet with commercial success. Many of the new productions have been shot for relatively paltry sums, using little-known or

unknown casts.

"There always have been small-budget films, for example Eric Rohmer's," observed self-taught director Anne Fontaine, whose \$3 million sexual tragicomedy revolving around a dry-cleaning outlet, *Nénette* (a.k.a. "Dry Cleaning"), is one recent release to have pleased critics and the public.

"What's new these days is that such films are successful," Fontaine said. "The audience is just fed up with seeing Alain Delon and Jean-Paul Belmondo."

This doesn't mean that colossal "popcorn" productions, both foreign and domestic, don't still exercise enormous box-office pull. James Cameron's *Titanic* has been the country's most popular film since it opened in January.

But some of the old recipes clearly don't work anymore. For instance, director Manuel Poirier's *Western*, shot for only \$2 million and featuring two unknown actors, has ignited far more industry and audience enthusiasm than well-bankrolled star vehicles showcasing some of France's biggest screen names.

Jacques Martineau, a university professor of letters with a passion for music, and Olivier Ducastel, a film editor by training, admit they couldn't possibly have gotten their movie, the first for both, financed or made as recently as four or five years ago. It's a girl-loves-boy story, only she is a nymphomaniac switchboard operator and he is an ex-junkie with AIDS. To push the envelope of French filmic genres even more, this picture, *Jeanne et*

le Garçon Formidable ("Jeanne and the Great Guy"), has been made as a musical comedy. To Michel Rebichon, editor in chief of *Studio*, the film's frankness and daring form typify the experimentation going on in French movie-making today. "This new generation hasn't spent a lot of time in the cinema," Rebichon said. "They mix genres and show the influence of comic books, music videos and B-movies as much as they do the greats of French cinema."

In the past year, French moviegoers have loved mass entertainment venues such as Luc Besson's futuristic *The Fifth Element*, 1997's top grosser, with 7.6 million tickets sold. But alongside these pictures, the French are increasingly demanding plots that revel in their Frenchness.

The biggest surprise mega-hit in recent months was Thomas Gilou's *La Verite Si Je Mens!* (roughly, "If I'm Lying, I'm Dying!"), a sassy but affectionate celluloid voyage through the Sentier, the Jewish garment district of Paris. The film gobbled up a bigger share of the 1997 French box office than Steven Spielberg's *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*.

Wrote Samuel Blumenfeld, movie critic for the respected Paris daily *Le Monde*, "I think that alongside the whole process of globalization, of seeing the same films and singing the same songs that the rest of the world does, we're also looking for ways to feel French." (Los Angeles Times)

The demise of gangsta rap

In the wee hours of March 9, 1997, Christopher Wallace - a man known to millions of rap fans as Biggie Smalls or Notorious B.I.G. - was shot to death while sitting in a car outside the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

Coming barely six months after the similarly violent demise of fellow rap star Tupac Shakur, Biggie's death left the rap world reeling. There was an immediate outpouring of grief - and a flood of rumors as well.

Many wondered if the two deaths weren't an outgrowth of the much-hyped gangsta rap "war" between the West Coast crew of Death Row Records (of which Tupac was a part), and the East Coast posse of Bad Boy Records (whose numbers included Biggie Smalls).

A year later, both murders remain unsolved. Bad Boy's chief, Sean "Puffy" Combs, shifted gears to a more pop-oriented sound and had a banner year, dominating the charts through his own singles and those he produced for Biggie. Meanwhile, Marion "Suge" Knight, the head of Death Row, is serving a nine-year prison term for assault after having had his probation revoked in February 1997.

But another casualty in these shootings may have been gangsta rap itself. Although posthumous albums by both Biggie and Tupac sold well, they were the exception among gangsta acts.

Where once the charts were clogged with gun-totin', hard-cussin' hits by the likes of Dr. Dre, Snoop Doggy Dogg, Ice Cube, Ice-T and the Geto Boys, the biggest rap singles of the last year have been perky, party-oriented jams by such artists as Will Smith, Li'l Kim, Heavy D, Freaky Nasty and Combs.

Gangsta albums are still being released, of course - they're just not doing the business they used to.

Last week, for instance, saw the release of the soundtrack to *Caught Up*, an album that includes contributions by Snoop Doggy Dogg, Kurupt, Mack 10 and the Luniz. Three years ago, a lineup like that would have guaranteed the album would enter the charts in the top five; instead, it came in at No. 30.

Most of the genre's big stars are barely active. Dr. Dre hasn't released anything since *Dr. Dre Presents the Aftermath* was released in late 1996 (although he is said to be completing an album with Snoop). Ice-T is more often found in movies or on TV than on the rap charts; his last album was with the thrash metal band Body Count. And after releasing a reunion album in the spring of '96, the Geto Boys once again went their separate ways.

STILL, IT'S hard to say just how much of a real shift in sensibilities this trend represents. Many in hip-hop will argue that the whole "gangsta rap" movement was all hype anyway.

First, "you have to accept the notion that there was such a thing as gangsta rap," said Bill Stephney, president of Step One Entertainment. A musician and producer who got his start working with the likes of Public Enemy, Stephney declines to acknowledge "that there even was such a thing" as gangsta.

"But for the more violence-ori-

ented music that did reflect either gang life or drug-trade life, it seems to be that that's on the wane," he said. "And it has been on the wane, even preceding the deaths of Biggie and Tupac."

In part, that may be because rap music, like everything else in popular culture, runs in cycles. To that extent, the gangsta boom may be like the slasher-flick craze of the '80s.

Like gangsta recordings, slasher flicks were considered sexist and gory, were accused of desensitizing teenagers to violence and were denounced by parents' groups across the country. But as the novelty wore off, the boom went bust - just as gangsta rap seems to be doing.

The deaths of Tupac and Biggie also have had an impact.

"The unfortunate deaths of these two stars have depressed a lot of people in the music industry, and affected people as they write and as they create music," says Danyel Smith, the editor of *Vibe*. "It's something that they think about when they're writing lyrics and creating beats."

CERTAINLY, THAT seems to have been the case with Will Smith. While accepting a Grammy last month for the Best Rap Solo Performance, Smith praised Biggie and Tupac as "prophets" and announced that he and collaborator DJ Jazzy Jeff would "dedicate this Grammy to the memories of Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls."

At the same time, the deaths are also having what Stephney describes as a "chilling effect" on the allure of guns and gangs.

"They served as a checkpoint, if you will, for the culture, saying, 'Well, wait a minute - we're not supposed to be dying over rap records.'"

There are many in the rap world who don't believe there ever was an actual "war" between East Coast and West Coast rappers. Hip-hop journalist Ronin Ro, the author of the book *Have Gun, Will Travel: The Spectacular Rise and Violent Fall of Death Row Records*, argues that the only real conflict was bad blood between Death Row's Knight and Bad Boy's Combs.

"It was a feud," he said. "It got hyped up into a big, bicoastal civil war by irresponsible magazines and journalists, like people at *The New York Times* and *Newsweek*. But it was just a corporate feud, man. Suge did not like Puffy, and Puffy kept rubbing his success in Suge's face."

Still, the big question for rap fans has less to do with whether Suge Knight will take revenge on Puffy Combs than with what sort of music will rise up in gangsta's wake.

"I think this is a time of great possibility but also a time of great boredom," Stephney said. "My own interest in hip-hop is that it remain as an outside voice, yelling at the institutions and canons of society, and it doesn't seem to be doing that. It seems to be accepting those institutions for purposes of promoting a very materialistic lifestyle."

"I think we need a younger Chuck D right now," he said, referring to Public Enemy's front man. "But a Chuck D who would mirror what it would be like to be a 21-year-old with the millennium coming." (The Baltimore Sun)



Open Sesame

Local mime artist Julian Chagrin and Kippi the hedgehog star in a scene from KTV's all-new Israeli/Palestinian version of 'Sesame Street.' The first of 60 half-hour segments of 'Rehov Sumsum/Shaar Simsim' premieres April 1 on KTV 2 at 2:30 p.m. Producer David Kuttub and his Palestinian crew filmed the 'Shaara Simsim' segments, and Dolly Wolbrum was the Israeli chief editor and executive producer of the series, which was made in collaboration with Children's Television Workshop (CTW), the US creators of the original 'Sesame Street.'

(Text: Helen Kaye/Photo: Micha Ben-On)

The young and effervescent Rubinstein - at 88

On January 15, 1975, an 88-year-old pianist walked slowly on to the stage of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California. He was about to play a benefit recital for Israel, one of many he had been playing over the years. The hall was crammed with enthusiastic music lovers and many watched a closed-circuit relay nearby, sensing that the legendary pianist on stage would not be performing much more in public. And they were right.

The pianist was Artur Rubinstein, and this indeed proved to be his last recital for Israel. The event was videotaped, and this recording was made from it, capturing Rubinstein with love, tenderness and care (*Artur Rubinstein. The Last Recital For Israel* RCA 09026 61160 2).

Rubinstein needs no introduction. His multitude of recordings and numerous performances in Israel, including those memorable evenings in which he played three piano concertos on one program, will never disappear from our memory. We heard Rubinstein in Israel at his very best and also when he was less precise. But he always had a special style which was pure delight. Watching Rubinstein perform was an experience to be cherished because as soon as he sat down at the piano, he was totally immersed in the music and gave himself to it.

This recording is more an emotional performance than the pianist in his prime. But throughout, one cannot but admire the old maestro, who sounds delightfully young and effervescent. The open-

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL ALLENSTADT

ing of Beethoven's *Appassionata* sonata is gripping, and the performer's passion captivates you with its sincerity. Some might question his choice of tempi here and there, some might prefer a more solemn reading, but this is how Rubinstein enjoyed playing. The bombastic conclusion of the sonata is evidence of his belief that there is an element of showbiz to playing the piano as well.

Schumann's *Fantasies* suggests that Rubinstein knew very well how he wanted to draw each of these eight miniatures which work perfectly well as a

cohesive whole. His "Flight of Fancy" is gripping, while the "Why?" is pensive. Rubinstein did not necessarily opt for the poetic depth of Schumann's music or for the tragic elements conveyed in it. Rather, he presents a somewhat airy reading that at times works better than others.

Two short selections by Debussy ("La plus que lente" and the A minor prelude) are brilliantly played before Rubinstein moves to his real home turf, the music most associated with him, that of his fellow countryman, Chopin. From the opening of the Op. 25 no. 5 etude, one senses that here Rubinstein is in his element, taking us on a magical journey to Chopin land, music that not only showcases the virtuosity of the performer and the composer but

also delights you with its pure charm.

The highlight here is the heroic *Polonaise* (Op. 53), seven minutes of musical fireworks performed with all the panache and aplomb one associates with the music and the pianist. No wonder the audience at the concert went wild; it is simply a stunner.

As the Ninth Artur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition opened yesterday in Tel Aviv, there is no better way to remember the legendary pianist than through this album. Granted, there are many discs on which he plays much better. But here one senses that age has not distorted the musicianship or virtuosity of a man who loved Israel with all his heart and who was one of the greatest pianists of all time.

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Incomplete repentance

On Monday, the Vatican released a much-anticipated official document concerning the Holocaust. The document is a disappointment to those expecting a frank reckoning of the passivity of the Church in the face of one of the greatest evils of the 20th century. History, however, will not judge the document on its own, but upon whether it successfully sets the stage for a more comprehensive act of repentance as Christianity enters its third millennium.

The document, titled "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," is not as bold as statements made by Pope John Paul II, statements made by the French and German bishops, or a draft document issued by the German and Polish bishops' conference in 1994. The 1994 document boldly acknowledged that "the Church as a whole offered no effective resistance to Nazi persecution and extermination." Far from echoing this statement, the just-issued document seems more focused on documenting Christian resistance to Nazism than grappling with the wrenching issues of Christian complicity and passivity. In contrast to the bishops' draft, the document tentatively asks, "Did Christians give every possible assistance to those being persecuted, in particular to the persecuted Jews?" The answer is couched in equally tentative language, "alongside such courageous men and women [who helped Jews], the spiritual resistance and concrete action of other Christians was not that which might have been expected from Christ's followers."

A perhaps more serious flaw is that the document's criticism is not of the Church itself but of the "sinfulness of her children." The document cites the record of German cardinals' condemnation of Nazism during Hitler's rise to power, and of the provost of the Berlin Cathedral, Bernhard Lichtenberg, who offered public prayers for the Jews after Kristallnacht, and who later was murdered at Dachau.

Popes Pius XI and XII are mentioned only briefly, and then only to praise their actions against Nazism and to cite the gratitude of Jewish leaders for "what Pope Pius XII did personally or through his representatives to save hundreds of thousands of Jewish lives." Indeed, the positive side of the ledger is not in dispute. There is no hesitation on the part of the Jewish people or the State of Israel to acknowledge all the "righteous gentiles" who heroically risked their own lives to save Jews, among them Christian clergy. There is also lit-

tle doubt that, of those who did save Jews, many acted out of the values taught them by their Christian faith.

Yet if heroism were the main part of the story, there would be no need for the "repentance" that the Vatican has rightly called for. The first step of repentance is to clearly acknowledge the sins being repented. The Vatican document, however, seems to largely skip the necessary full confrontation with the past, in favor of a focus on the future. It is perhaps unrealistic for Jewish leaders to have expected that the Vatican document, over 10 years in the making, would stand in direct judgment of previous popes and the Church as an institution. Theologically, this is almost impossible, since the Church is considered an inseparable element of Christianity itself.

And yet the Church has shown an ability to make dramatic breaks with its past, and on this same question of antisemitism. In the historic 1965 statement "Nostra Aetate," the Catholic Church formally repudiated the concept of Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus, a concept which it claimed was always mistaken but which was associated with centuries of Christian teachings. It was this statement that paved the way for John Paul II to go a step further, stating recently that centuries of Christian antisemitism "contributed to soothing consciences, so that when Europe saw unleashed a wave of persecutions inspired by a pagan antisemitism... the spiritual resistance of many was not that which humanity expected from the disciples of Christ." The new Vatican document continues in this vein, but does not go further as hoped and expected, pointing more to the future than confronting the past.

"Looking to the future relations between Christians and Jews," the document concludes, "we appeal to our Catholic brothers and sisters to renew the awareness of the Hebrew roots of our faith... [and] that the Jews are our dear beloved brothers, indeed in a certain sense they are our 'elder brothers.'" The Jewish people should certainly not spurn this call for brotherhood, but it is also important for the Church to continue its own painful inquiry. The head of the Vatican committee that drafted the document, Cardinal Edward Cassidy, was encouraging in this respect, stating that "Nothing is closed with this document." Indeed, this chapter in history must be opened wider before it can be closed, and the fullest possible repentance achieved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A NEW ERA

Sir, - During the recent joint press conference held by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and HRH Crown Prince Hassan at the Tel Aviv Hilton, both men underscored the need to rejuvenate the process for peace. Both equally agreed that there had been enough suffering by Israelis and Palestinians alike, and that it was time to find a solution acceptable to both parties. Crown Prince Hassan reminded us in his quotation from Proverbs 18:21 *Mavel v'haim b'yad halashon*, that words can move us towards

death or life. To me, the powerful words expressed by both leaders promoted life and well-being for all.

I personally support those hopes and sentiments. I pray that the political leadership of both peoples will find the resolute strength to pursue with sincerity and integrity the quest for peace. The time for a new era has dawned.

We Christians find sustenance for peace-making in St. Paul's words from Romans 12:17-18, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil."

But take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all."

I trust that we can all meet in truth and with courage the challenges that lie ahead.

DR. HARRY HAGOPIAN, LL.D.
Executive Director,
The Middle East Council of Churches,
General Secretariat,
Jerusalem.

GAZIT'S REMARKS

Sir, - Had Shlomo Gazit's words been spoken in the heat of a throbbing argument when he lost his head, I could begin to accept an apology for his comparing the swastika with a knitted skullcap.

But as he prefaced his words so as to emphasize his determination to hunt and disgust his audience, both present or otherwise, I am beside myself with pain; the more so as I have three, or rather, had three knitted kippa-wearing sons in the IDF, but the middle son, then a 20-year-old heder boy gave his life for the nation in Lebanon exactly 13 years ago.

How dare anyone enjoying the perks, privileges and prestige of an ex-general in the IDF utter words only befitting a terrorist?

In my opinion, he must be put on trial immediately for aggravated incitement, instigation and defamation; otherwise we may yet live to see - heaven forefend - a recurrence of the dreadful event of November 4, 1995. I would wish to have him stripped of his rank and sentenced to five years' community service.

MICHAEL H. MOSHYTZ
Jerusalem.

APALLING IGNORANCE

Sir, - As a non-kippa wearer, let me say I deplore Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Gazit's comparison between knitted kippot and "the swastikas on armbands of Nazi soldiers."

First of all, it is a vicious slur on a considerable number of his fellow Israelis; second, it betrays appalling ignorance. If he had bothered to check Andrew Molloy's

German Uniforms of World War II, the standard work on the subject, he would have found that no members of the armed forces wore swastika armbands. These were part of the uniform of NFDAP officials, the SA, Hitler Youth, and other organizations.

ALEX BERLYNE
Jerusalem.

SECOND-HAND SMOKE

Sir, - I recently spent two weeks in Israel visiting my daughter who is studying for a year in Israel. What was even more annoying than the constant ringing of cell phones was the ubiquitous cloud of cigarette smoke I found everywhere in my travels.

Even though taxis have no smoking signs posted in them, the drivers totally ignore them. I asked several cabbies to extinguish them, some cooperated, some refused. It is even worst in the restaurants and coffeehouses, you can't breathe in most of them. When I asked to be seated in the no-smoking section, I got looks of amazement. Since second-hand smoke has been determined to be a health hazard, the government should intervene and adopt stricter regulations that would protect the health of the non-smokers, even though they may be in the minority of Israel society.

HAROLD ZOMBECK
Hollywood, Fl.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On March 18, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Britain traded money, military material and aircraft for the right to maintain air bases and training troops in Transjordan

under a new 20-year treaty of joint defence.

25 years ago: On March 18, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that security forces had cracked one of the largest terror-

ist cells operating in the Gaza Strip by rounding up 21 members of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Alexander Zvielli

"I'm OK, you're OK..."



A diplomatic error

DAVID NEWMAN

to the international public debate only because the actions of the present government during the past two years have made it so.

Jerusalem had been pushed off the immediate negotiations by the previous government and was not part of the international agenda at

Cook's visit has done nothing to bring the British any closer to the negotiating table

the time. Since coming to power, the Netanyahu administration has taken a number of extremely controversial decisions regarding Jerusalem, of which Har Homa is but one, giving an excuse for the issue to be raised in international forums and for Israel to be condemned throughout the world.

Whether one believes that Israel should, or should not be, the eternal sovereign of an undivided Jerusalem, one does not undertake such controversial actions if one is engaged in a process aimed at bringing about conflict resolution and decreasing the level of violence. Peace processes are as much about creating confidence building measures (CBMs) as the actions themselves, and both the Israelis and Palestinians have proved themselves to be notoriously bad in this area.

COOK'S visit comes at a time when Britain heads the European Union. But it has been suggested that proposals he brings with him on the Israel-Palestine conflict are no more than British proposals disguised in a European uniform. Britain's influence in the Middle East is no longer of any great significance, but it has continually

tried to keep its foot in the door. The British believe that due to their long connections with the Middle East they understand the region best, preferring to forget the shambles they created during the final years of the Mandate, and the blatant anti-Jewish policies put into effect by Ernest Bevin in the aftermath of World War II.

There have been some British prime ministers, notably Harold Wilson, Margaret Thatcher and John Major, who have demonstrated considerable warmth towards Israel, but this has not significantly changed the long-term policy making of that country as practiced by the Foreign Office. Although there is no logical reason whatsoever why Robin Cook should visit any part of Israel or the West Bank, in the company of whomever he wishes, it is not an action which will draw him, or his country, any nearer to the negotiating table.

Most Israelis will interpret this visit as just one more sign of a pro-Palestinian position.

At the same time, were Cook to have cancelled this part of his visit, it would equally have been interpreted by the Palestinians as a sign of giving into Israeli diplomatic pressure. Since the Arab countries believe that the American administration is pro-Israel in its overall stance, the Europeans are, for them, a form of counterbalance. It is obvious that the European Union, who so desire to get involved in the Middle East peace process, are aware of this and have used this visit in an attempt to counter the hegemonic influence of the Americans.

But they could not have gone about it in a worse way. Perhaps Cook and his colleagues should spend some time in a School for Diplomats before they next attempt to become involved in the region.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

Moscow chill

DAVID KIMCHE

our diplomats. The recent revelations in Jerusalem regarding the activities of Nativ in Russia have naturally not helped matters.

On the economic front the situation is not much better. The entire trade between Israel and Russia - in both directions - is not much more than \$300 million annually, which, given the enormous potential for such trade, is a ridiculously small figure. The Russian Duma, or parliament, is openly unfriendly to us, and a fall-out of this attitude has been the holding up of a double taxation bill.

This meager trade figure is all the more depressing given the enormous advantage that Israel has over other countries. We have an ample reservoir of citizens - new and veteran immigrants alike - who not only know every language spoken in the former Soviet Union, but who understand the soul of Russia - and who know how to deal with its bureaucracy and whom to access in order to do business. Our Russian immigrants could have been in many ways a bridge between the two countries.

True, there do exist thriving cultural relations, but these hardly fill the void left in other spheres.

BOTH sides are responsible for this sad state of affairs, but obviously ours is by far the greater need for better relations, and we have not done enough to acquire them. Our embassy has been in a state of near limbo over the last few years, ever since the late former ambassador Haim Bar-Lev became ill. His successor in Moscow did not succeed in making an impact on the Russian scene and then came the long period of not having an ambassador at all. The Russians could be excused for thinking that Jerusalem was not placing a high premium on our

relations with them, and that Israel was putting all its cards on the US and Western Europe, to the detriment of its contacts with Moscow.

Such an attitude would be especially unwise today when the Russians are becoming more active in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov is an Arabist, and he is intent on leaving his mark on our region. In the Russian Foreign Ministry they are saying: "We had a wonderful formula for solving the Iraqi crisis: Russian and French diplomacy, American and British guns, and Kofi Annan out in front. Perhaps," they add, "we will be able to organize something similar to get the Arab-Israeli peace process moving again."

For good and for bad, Russia is an immensely important country for us. It is still the reservoir of Jewish immigration to Israel. During the past two years some 30,000 Jews immigrated from Russia to Israel and the steady trickle of immigrants is continuing without any sign of letting up. Politically, Russia still has considerable influence on our Arab neighbors which can be put to positive or negative use from our point of view. Militarily, there is the continuing threat of Russian technology and weapons reaching Iran, while economically Russia could and should become a major partner for us. For all these reasons we should be paying much more attention to Moscow and making more strenuous efforts to improve our relations.

Let us hope that our new ambassador - who has already proven himself as ambassador in Kiev - will succeed in galvanizing both Moscow and Jerusalem to draw nearer to each other. I wish him luck.

The writer, a former director general of the foreign ministry, is chairman of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

Old habits

RUTHIE BLUM

Dear prospective new immigrant. You have expressed an interest in turning your Homeland into your home. You have also expressed apprehension about your ability to become absorbed in Israel to your satisfaction. The following are guidelines to assist you in your endeavor.

To ensure a successful aliya, preparation is in order. Preparation should take the form of learning new skills. It should also involve the breaking of old habits. The skills to be learned are technical; the habits to be broken are cultural. The technical skills you will be called upon to apply to your daily life from the moment you arrive are numerous, since you will have to be proficient in several fields of expertise just to make it through an average week in Israel. Less this prospect causes you to pause, the good news is that the cultural habits you will be required to shed - albeit firmly ingrained - are few.

First and foremost among your newfound vocations will be engineering. Whether you spend your first years in a development town absorption center or in a villa in Herzliya, you will not be able to maneuver your household without fully grasping the ins and outs of its structural imperfections, which will be as abundant as they are diverse. This is because the only citizens who do not consider it necessary to apply their knowledge of engineering to actual construction in Israel are the engineers themselves.

The second of your acquired skills will be contracting. Whether you rent an apartment or build a house, you will not be able to settle in comfortably or affordably without eliminating the various middlemen who arrange to have tasks performed for you poorly yet at great expense. This is because the only citizens who do not consider it their duty to

Remember - there is a chain of superiors and subordinates on whom you can place blame if called upon to be held accountable

apply their knowledge of contracting to actual home improvement in Israel are the contractors themselves.

The third and fourth fields worthy of your attention will be mechanics and carpentry. Whether you're thrifty or a spendthrift, you will not be able to turn on or sit on any new purchase without it needing readjustment or repair before you've had the chance even to remove it from its wrapping paper. This is because the only citizens who do not consider it their job to apply their workshop expertise to actual products in Israel are the mechanics and carpenters themselves.

The fifth and sixth will be plumbing and electricity. Whether you're a frequent bather or someone who takes a weekly shower, you will not be able to cause hot water to emerge from your tap without familiarizing yourself with your pipes and boiler to a professional degree. This is because the only citizens who do not consider it their responsibility to install pipes and wires logically or efficiently in Israel are the plumbers and electricians themselves.

HERE is where the breaking of old habits comes into play: If you are already an engineer, a contractor, a mechanic, a carpenter, a plumber or an electrician - or if you decide to become one of the above (or any other type of paid professional) after making aliya - make sure to disclaim any responsibility when something you design, build, install, organize or supervise collapses - particularly if fatalities occur as a result.

Remember - when you are paid for your labors, there is a chain of superiors and subordinates, as well as the government, on whom you can place blame if called upon to be held accountable.

For you, a newcomer not yet divested of the ways if the "old country" from whence you came, this may be difficult for you to adjust to. Not quite melted into the Israeli pot, you are likely to find breaking the habit of taking responsibility for the consequences of your actions harder than mastering all of the above skills put together.

If so, don't feel guilty. And always plead innocent.

For further information, you can visit our Arad Festival and Yarkon Bridge websites.

Sincerely, The Aliya Department of The Ministry of Virtual Reality

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

New slant on

Eric Jackson's family have sacrificed comfort and stability so he can immerse himself in a treacherous sport. David Ferrell traces the ups and downs of the kayaking life — with wife and kids in tow

Worry is interest paid on a debt you may never owe.

Eric Jackson (EJ) does not often spout his philosophy, he prefers to live it. You seldom hear him go on about relishing the moment or the journey being the reward.

But look at him: traveling the mountain back roads from one remote river to the next, a man with no savings, no fixed address, crisscrossing America to kayak the way very few others have ever kayaked.

Home is his RV — a 9-meter long, dirt-caked, rain-streaked, recreational vehicle its left front bumper bashed in and secured with rope after a wreck at an icy guardrail in the Colorado Rockies.

Inside are his wife Kristine, their two children, 7-year-old Emily and 4-year-old Dane, and two Dalmatians. Lashed to the rear are a tangle of bicycles. Piled atop the roof are half-a-dozen kayaks, vital possessions that survived the great purge last fall, when the family sold pretty much everything, including most of the kids' toys, some \$6,000 worth of belongings — to hit the road full time.

Eric Jackson is nearly broke, down to his last \$60. His checking account is in the red by at least twice that. Even in his own family there are critics — like his stepmother, who wonders what he is doing rolling through the Sierra Nevada, 5,000 kilometers from where he belongs.

How will this affect the kids? Emily is a second-grader; she left behind her classroom and all her friends. Dane is nearing school age with a severe hearing impairment; his speech therapy has become Kristine's responsibility. If these concerns trouble him — and they do — EJ rarely shows it.

ONE OF the world's most accomplished kayakers is living a dream. His aspiration to greatness and his craving for thrills have required this leap of faith — on his part and his family's. They have sacrificed comfort and stability so that EJ can devote himself to his sport, so he can fully immerse himself in white water.

There may be no more than a couple of thousand others like him: extreme athletes living on the move, their travels governed solely by the changing seasons and terrain, the calendar of competitive events.

Almost all are men, and almost all live in RVs and campers, buying canned stew and Spam and sunscreen with the revenues of part-time jobs and sponsorships. But unlike EJ, most are young and single, a generation lost to the hinterlands, conquering rivers, ski slopes, mountain trails, rock faces.

Nomadic kayakers migrate west or south in the winter, to the American and Yuba rivers in California, the Ocoee and Watuga in Tennessee, to hundreds of others — from nameless, rain-swollen creeks in Oregon and Washington to tropical cascades as far south as Brazil and Costa Rica. The thaws of spring and summer bring the paddlers back to the East — to the Adirondacks, the broadleaf forests of New England, and

the sparsely populated watersheds of Montana, Idaho and Colorado. There are those who spend months on the road, whatever their incomes allow.

EJ did that for a decade, traveling, coming home, traveling, coming home, until he reached a point at 33 when almost any man with a family would have been forced to choose between his sport and his home.

In EJ's case, the two came together. He is married to a funny, keen-minded woman of 28 who was willing to break away from suburban life to accept the burdens of the road. Although it would be a mistake to say that their attitudes and desires are exactly the same, EJ and Kristine have found a workable balance.

EJ refuses to trade today's happiness for tomorrow's security, and Kristine yields to his obsession, trusting that the unconventional route may turn out the more fulfilling one.

HE PROFFERS to feel no guilt over leading his family on this rootless odyssey — "sailing from crisis to crisis," as he says — because he is doing what he believes he was meant to do. EJ flows with the considerable tribulations of his life much as he flows with the placid waters of the open river, or with the steep, boiling currents that kayakers call "hair."

"He believes that because he is the luckiest person on the planet, by some magic everything's going to eventually work out OK," Kristine says at a misty stop along the Kern River, north of Bakersfield, Calif. "For me it's a very long, very hard road. For him, it's a cake." She laughs — it's all she can do.

Kristine understands — they both understand — that the path they have chosen is fraught with hazards. The kayaking itself is a temptation of fate. To have any shot at greatness, an extreme boater must be capable of navigating any runnable stretch of the river. That often means steep waterfalls. Twice EJ has gone over 14-meter falls — once without any warning, a case of bad guidance by a fellow kayaker that just about turned his adrenal gland to a raisin.

Waterfalls are leg-breakers, back-breakers and killers, but they aren't the worst of the river's vices. Down below the falls, below big rocks and low-head dams there are "holes," or "hydraulics," places where the water curls under itself, circulating as in a washing machine. "Drowning machines," some boaters call them.

If the hydraulics don't get you, if you survive the falls, there are other opportunities to die. You might end up in a "sieve," a funnel where the river gushes down through the rocks, or under fallen logs.

Water goes through but a kayak or human body doesn't. You can get pinned — and suddenly the whole weight of the current is on your back, holding you in your boat, crushing you and flowing right over the top.

Last year, a particularly bad one



Tempting fate for fun: While Jackson navigates a fork of California's Yuba River, his wife has driven ahead to run her household on the road. (Photos: Los Angeles Times)

'For me it's a very long, very hard road. For him, it's a cake.' Kristine laughs. It's all she can do

for extreme kayaking. 15 boaters died in the US, including two of the nation's best. Rich Weiss and Chuck Kern were both friends of EJ. They paddled with him, competed against him.

"It's depressing they died, and all that," says EJ matter of factly. But he has not grown any more afraid because two men he knew never came back.

"Any time you have a steep rapids, you can't see the water in front of you. All you see is a horizon line and maybe the tops of trees down below. No matter how many times you do it, there is something completely unnatural about sitting at the tops of waterfalls and not being able to see where you're going, and knowing you're about to paddle off the edge."

To do so requires unnatural attributes, one being a high tolerance for pain.

Kayakers get beaten up on rocks, flipped upside down in water barely above freezing. EJ has broken a rib and torn back muscles; he has taken numerous stitches on his forehead and has bone chips floating in his elbows.

His goals are sweeping. He plans to compete in the 2000 Olympic Games, pursuing the gold he failed to win in 1992, in Barcelona, Spain, when he was top US finisher in 13th place.

He hopes to dominate the rodeo circuit, which in kayaking means stunt-diving: Boaters do spins and cartwheels in the manner of bronc riders. He aims to promote and expand extreme kayaking, organizing races for cash through some of America's most treacherous rapids.

EJ CONCERNS himself with the big picture, the over-arching scheme. Kristine handles the



When dad returns, Dane, 4, climbs on the kayak, then jumps off. How is their fraught lifestyle affecting the Jackson children?

necessities: teaching the kids, washing clothes, serving cereal and pancakes in the morning, making sandwiches and oranges for lunch, running the household. When EJ goes paddling — taking a five-hour run down 10 or 12 miles of river — Kristine drives ahead to the take-out point, parking and schooling Emily in math and reading.

Kayakers consider EJ a "gonzo paddler," a hard-edged competitor who is a super guy, in some estimations, and a noisome self-promoter in others. He has a chiseled upper body — he can do 40 chin-ups — and skinny legs he tries vainly to build up by running. His pulse rate is 50 and he can hold his breath for three minutes, a feat he demonstrated by winning a contest with other boaters in a hot tub at the Ottawa River — while drunk, no less.

White water kayaking has grown enormously in the past decade, buoyed by the same technological advances and cultural trends that have popularized sky surfing, ice climbing and other dangerous sports.

Boats once made of fiberglass are now molded of plastics that flex and twist like Tupperware, gliding right over rocks. Kayakers have come up with ways to maneuver through jumbled rocks and go over falls: "boofing" for example, keeping the boat horizontal in the air, landing it flat. That is the sound when it hits: boof.

Clamoring for notoriety, the most zealous competitors have pushed the sport to the point of near-lunacy.

EJ is not so reckless. He was offered a shot at setting a record

on TV, and he scouted for suitable waterfalls in Brazil, Costa Rica and New Zealand before finally deciding against it. Waterfalls bigger than 40 feet are a bad risk, he thinks. Too much can go wrong. The acclaim is not worth ending up a paraplegic, or dead.

SOMEDAY Kristine would like to settle down again, maybe get a house with land and horses. "I try not to talk about the future beyond paddling," she says, "because I don't want him to think I'm rushing him toward something else, or dissatisfied with what I have now."

The family are living in the present — which at the moment is a highway turnout near Grass Valley, Calif., above a fork of the American River east of

Sacramento.

EJ unloads the boats from the roof and he and several kayaker friends, locals, descend through the cold forested canyon for a 20 kilometer run. Deep in this canyon are drops and rocky sieves, rapids EJ has never paddled.

Two expert kayakers were killed here last year. The winter afternoon is losing light. No one knows whether they will be able to get through by nightfall.

"If we were prudent," EJ says, smiling, "we probably wouldn't do this run today." But no one talks about turning back.

At the edge, they push off one by one. EJ gliding into the shimmering water, a shrinking silhouette in the filtered sunlight. Up ahead, the current quickens; the river turns. He is there, and he is gone. (Los Angeles Times)

When your child reads fine, but can't talk to you



By Ruth Mason

When their son Yonatan was two-and-a-half, Naomi and Ilan noticed that he wasn't speaking the way his two older brothers had at his age. At the same time, Yonatan knew his way around the computer, could read words, and, by looking at a printed page, could tell whether the document came from Microsoft Word, the Internet, or some other computer program.

Despite his obvious intelligence, Yonatan's parents decided to have him tested by a psychologist. "He had amazing skills — but he had trouble talking to us," his mother says. "We didn't know how to understand his difficulties."

The psychologist, who came highly recommended as a diagnostician, gave Yonatan a battery of

tests, said he had a communication disorder and recommended that he be placed in special education.

Because of their son's high intelligence and because they were convinced he would only learn to speak well if he was around children who spoke well, Naomi and Ilan were reluctant to take the psychologist's advice. They agonized over what to do.

"How could an expert be wrong?" Naomi thought. But she couldn't rid herself of the feeling that something else was going on with her son.

Just then, luck stepped in. Ilan's cousin in the US happened to see a television program that showed a boy Yonatan's age sitting at a computer, reading, but unable to talk to his family. According to the show's producers the boy had hyperlexia, an unusual communication difficulty.

The cousin called Ilan immediately and told him where he could contact experts in the US who knew about hyperlexia.

After an intensive period of international phone calls, faxes,

and Internet searches Naomi and Ilan became convinced that Yonatan was hyperlexic. He fit the description to a T: He had a precocious ability to read on his own, an intense fascination with the written word, and difficulty talking with other people.

"It was such a relief," says Naomi. "If we had been less aware, if we had taken the psychologist's advice, we would have harmed our son."

"These children don't belong in special education. The treatment is actually quite simple, and can be done at home."

"We had been told to take him off the computer," she continues, "because it was preventing him from communicating with people. But it was actually through the computer that Yonatan (now five) learned to talk. If we had taken him off, we would have deprived him of his one success."

"We wouldn't have known how smart he really was — and he wouldn't have learned the things he's learned. He took his older brother's reading program and

taught himself to read."

Naomi and Ilan took the materials they had collected from the US and the Internet and presented them to the testing psychologist, who agreed that she had made a mistake. Still, the fight is not over.

"I'm always struggling to convince people that they have normal kids," says Naomi. "It's the same fight the dyslexics went through. Everyone now knows that just because they make mistakes in reading and writing it doesn't mean they're stupid or retarded. But it took a long time to get people to accept that."

HYPERLEXIA didn't become widely recognized in the US until the late 1980s. Speech and language pathologists, psychologists and special educators at the Center for Speech and Language Disorders in Elmhurst, Illinois, discerned an unusual group of children with the symptoms described above.

They had been variously diagnosed as having autism, Asperger's disorder, behavior dis-

order or language disorder — or, conversely, as being gifted.

In their brochure the American Hyperlexia Association, which began as a support group for parents, says "It is vital to identify hyperlexia; to understand the child's learning style, and to use strengths in reading to help develop weak areas."

Parents of such children are often amazed when their toddlers start identifying letters and numbers as young as 18 months. Some do not speak at all, but those who do may echo words and sentences and memorize pages of written text they have heard read out loud.

They usually have an excellent auditory and visual memory — they may ask once at age two what a street sign says and be able to identify it from then on. At very young ages they will be able to explain which of their toys are Fisher Price and which are Playskool.

Some of these children also have difficulties in social and interpersonal development. But as language skills improve behavior

problems often subside.

Only a few studies on small numbers of children with these symptoms have been conducted and a great deal — including the causes of hyperlexia — remains unknown.

Children with hyperlexia learn in patterns: They may have a library of thousands of sentences in their heads but not be able to break them down into words. They may use words in a peculiar way.

"They learn numbers, the alphabet and music very quickly," explains Naomi. "What's difficult for them is to carry on a conversation, because they need to break down the sentences they know to find individual words and then build them into appropriate new sentences."

Treatment involves using the child's strengths to help him learn. Naomi and Ilan started leaving notes around the house. On the juice container: "I'd like a drink." On the toilet: "I peed." They also labeled things around the house: "chair," "couch," "bed." Because Yonatan would echo

what he had heard, instead of asking "Do you want juice?" they learned to say: "Do you want juice — yes I want juice." Eventually they taught him to use just the second half of the sentence. Yonatan learned very quickly.

Despite telephone calls to psychologists and educators throughout the country, Naomi and Ilan have been unable to locate professionals in Israel qualified to test for or treat hyperlexia. They refer the many calls they get from parents to the American Hyperlexia Association, 479 Spring Road, Elmhurst, IL 60126. Fax 630-530-5909; tel. 630-415-2212; or to the organization's web site at www.hyperlexia.org.

Naomi says one of the most useful parts of the website is the tips she gets from other parents.

Those who want more information can also turn to *Reading Too Soon. How to Understand and Help the Hyperlexic Child* by Susan Martins Miller, published by the Center for Speech and Language Disorders, Elmhurst, Illinois.

Corner



By Batsheva Mink
and David Brauner

Bougainvillea – a real head-turner

It is a wonder that people driving through Rehovot can keep their eyes on the road. The beautiful display of bougainvillea lining the main roads is enough to turn anyone's head.

Few plants produce a more magnificent mantle color than the bougainvillea. There are very few exotic climbers that are easier to grow, and they are rarely troubled by pests and diseases.

Bougainvillea is probably the most universally cultivated shrub of the tropics and sub-tropics. It has become very much at home in Israeli gardens as well as gardens in India, Malaysia, the Caribbean and, of course, in its native South America. Nothing brings home the romantic touch of faraway lands than the decorative, rich colors and dark leaves of the bougainvillea.

The bougainvillea genus belongs to the family *Nyctaginaceae*, one of some 14 species, mainly from tropical and sub-tropical America. Sometimes the *Nyctaginaceae* are called the "four-o'clock" family, because the flowers of certain members like the "marvel of Peru" (*Mirabilis jalapa*) open regularly in the afternoon.

Our plant is named after the 18th-century French navigator and explorer, Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1732-1811), who found specimens growing in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Also the largest island of the Solomon Islands group in the Pacific Ocean, Bougainville Island, is named in his honor.

But back to the curiosities of the bougainvillea. The actual flowers are very small and, in fact, barely noticeable. But if you look closely, they are tubular in shape, white inside and brownish on the outside. It is the masses of triangular "bracts" which surround the flowers in groups of three, like little collars that make the vivid display.

Usually flowers in nature, like living advertisements, are colored brightly to attract pollinating insects. However, in bougainvillea the colorful, papery bracts make up for whatever the flowers lack, which makes the flowers a somewhat of a natural oddity.

The colors of the bracts range from palest mauve through magenta to a rich shade of purple; from white to a creamy yellow; and from a pale pinkish-rose to a

glowing wine red. Some of the newer varieties have flowers with bracts of different colors on the same plant.

The leaves come in varying sizes and are generally dark green on the upper surface and paler on the underside. There is also a variegated (green and white) leaf form available which does not flower as profusely as those with solid green leaves. It is also possible to find them with double flowers (bracts). But these tend to look untidy after a while, because after the bracts fade, they tend to remain on the plant and not drop off as the single kinds do.

Bougainvilleas are sun- and heat-loving plants. However, the purple-flowering kinds, which are the strongest and hardiest, grow very well in cooler parts of the country, like Jerusalem and Safed. The other colors have been known to come through our cold winters in sheltered positions. They grow best under fairly dry conditions and will tolerate the occasional sharp frost but not prolonged damp cold.

Bougainvilleas are scramblers by nature, climbing by means of stiff woody spines, which are, in fact, modified branches. In tropical and sub-tropical regions they quickly grow into very large plants, whereas in areas where the temperature sometimes drops below freezing, they are apt to be cut back. This can prove a blessing in disguise, as otherwise they can become very large and sprawling.

To train bougainvillea against a wall or fence, retain a minimum of two main stems and run them parallel to the ground along the base of the fence or wall to make the bottom more dense. Upright shoots will emerge from these and should be tied to the wall as they grow.

Because of their thorns, bougainvillea make excellent hedges for keeping children and most animals inside your yard.

If you wish to grow bougainvillea as a free-standing hedge, plant the shrubs two meters apart. In this case allow several stems to grow out from the base and tie them down to stakes at either side so that they spread out parallel to the ground, one over the other. Upright shoots will emerge from the horizontal stems. When these reach 50 cm. high, turn them back, downward to the lower horizontal and tie them in to form an entan-



Few exotic climbers are easier to grow.

(Karen Ben-zion)

glement. As growth spreads out, trim it off along the sides so that the hedge does not become too wide and dense within.

Established bougainvilleas are strong plants with tremendous vitality, and so may need regular trimming and training to keep them from becoming untidy and straying onto other plants.

To cover an arch, it is best to allow only one main stem to develop initially, and to remove others near ground level. When the arch is covered you can allow shoots from the base to develop again.

Though the bougainvillea has generally been utilized as a climber for many years, horticulturists have recently proved, after much experimentation, that these showy plants can be used to a great effect as ground cover. They are ideal for covering steep banks with cascades of color. But because, as we mentioned, they are very vigorous plants, their ground-cover growth is only suitable for large gardens.

If you have only a very small garden or no garden, you can still grow bougainvilleas in containers. It must be remembered, however, like many other plants growing in

containers, they will require more regular feeding than those growing on open ground.

HERE ARE a few easy guidelines for successfully growing bougainvillea.

Light. Bougainvillea loves plenty of strong sunshine.

Temperature. Established plants will tolerate drops in temperature to minus 3°C. Temperatures slightly lower than minus 3 may cut back the newer, weaker growth, but the roots will remain unaffected by the frost.

Pruning. You should trim your bougainvillea after the flowering season is over, but "tip" pruning, in other words, trimming and tidying up loose ends can be done at all times.

Watering. In summer, water well on a regular basis – once or twice a week. Young plants must not be allowed to dry out. After the second year, reduce the amount of water given to large, established plants. For all bougainvillea plants you can reduce watering from the end of November to the end of March.

Feeding. Feed every two weeks with a fertilizer high in potassium, preferably one marked 7-3-7. Potassium is essential for the pro-



Rich color and the romantic touch of faraway lands.

duction of plant tissues, and quality and color in flowers and fruits.

Propagation. To propagate, take 8-9 cm. long cuttings of half-ripe, young wood (wood that's not completely "woody," that is, that still has spring to it) in summer, and set them in small pots containing a mixture of half peat moss and half sand or volcanic stones (Heb. 100f). Place the pots in a light, but not sunny area. You can also insert the cuttings directly into the ground during the summer

months. Make sure it is a shady, but light spot and don't forget to water the cuttings.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact

Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: norri@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

TIP OF THE WEEK:

If you live in colder areas of the country, wait to try to grow some of the more tender, light-colored species of bougainvillea. Plant them in a position sheltered from wind and cold. Keep them on the dry side during the winter. Kneading is adequate during the wet season.



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Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Do animals dream? A number of readers want to know. Certainly pets sometimes exhibit jerky movements as they nap on their pillows, and some even emit sounds – yips, barks or meows as the case may be. But is this a sign of dreaming, or is it just a muscular reflex?

Naturally we cannot ask an animal if it was dreaming or question it about the content of its dreams, if it had any. But a lot of research has been done with humans on the physiological aspects of dreaming.

We know for certain that there are changes in the brain waves, as seen on an electroencephalogram. We also know that when dreaming, a human exhibits what is known as "rapid eye movement" or REM.

Therefore when we see the same brain-wave changes in mammals (and some birds) and when we can clearly record REM – often at the same time as an animal exhibits body movements and sounds – then we can be relatively sure that the animal is dreaming.

What the content of these dreams might be, of course, is a mystery – although in dogs, for instance, the body language often seems to indicate that the animal is either chasing or being chased.

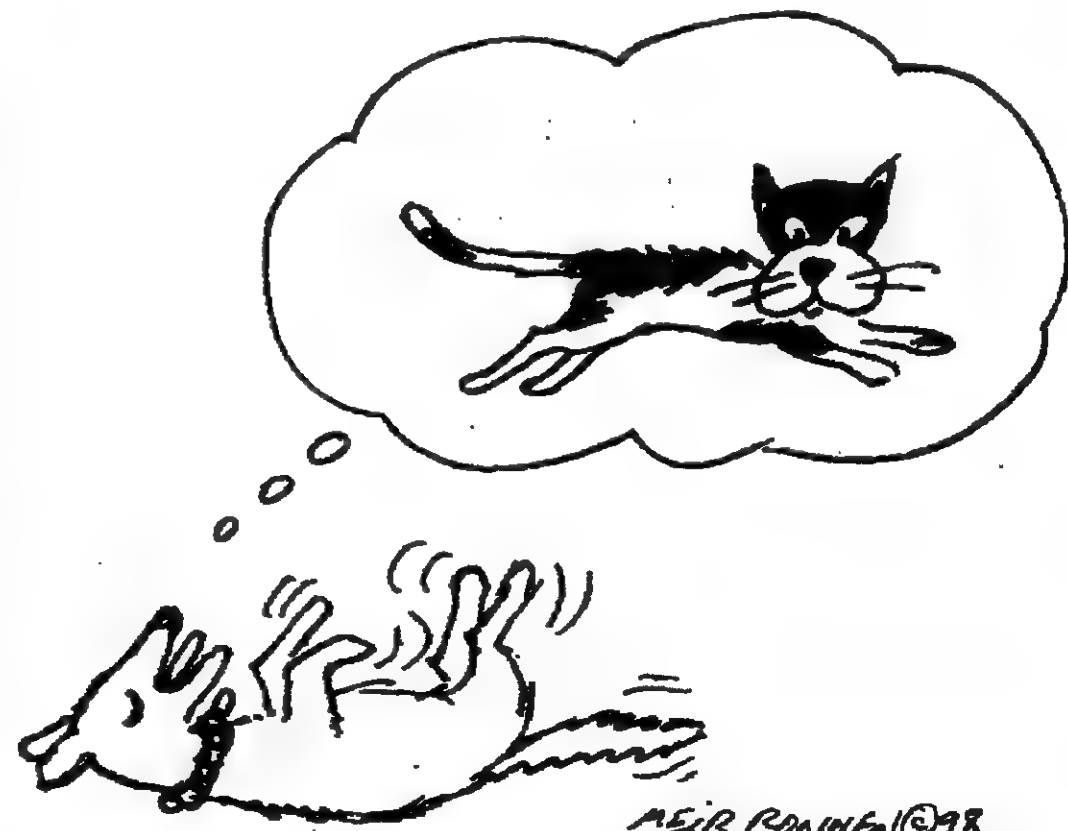
Dogs show a lot of REM sleep periods. Cats also seem to dream a lot, even more than dogs or humans. They do not usually exhibit any motor reactions, although some occasionally flex muscles or even hiss while asleep.

But dogs sleep far more deeply than cats, and since REM sleep usually takes place during periods of fairly light sleep, it seems likely that cats dream more than dogs.

Horses have also shown a fairly high rate of dream indicators – i.e., changes in brain waves and REM. Horses also sleep lightly.

Cattle, on the other hand, show REM at infrequent intervals, and the periods are usually extremely

'To sleep, perchance to dream?'



MEIR RONINEN © 98

short. But deer and ruminants, such as cows, show quite a lot of these sleep indicators.

Dolphin sleep has shown patterns very close to those of humans. Some researchers have suggested that dolphins may even have nightmares, because they sometimes waken from intense REM sleep in a very agitated state and show all the symptomatic behavior of being frightened, a state that passes as soon as they are fully awake.

THERE hasn't been a lot of research done on sleep in birds, but crows have been found to exhibit REM, brain-wave changes and even flapping and cawing while asleep. Smaller

birds exhibit far fewer signs, but then again, they are harder to monitor. Crows, by the way, belong to the *Corvidae* class, which have the best developed brains of all birds.

A notable exception here is parrots. One African Grey parrot detailed in the British journal *Animals* not only seems to dream, but also talks in its sleep.

Most parrots exhibit REM and often squawk, mutter and flap their wings while sleeping – but this particular parrot will softly croon "Jerry, I love you," just as it does when it wants the attention of a particular family member.

Is the bird dreaming of Jerry? Perhaps.

No studies have been done on

the "cold-blooded" vertebrates, but it is almost certain that in the case of mammals and some birds, sleep involves a state that is physiologically compatible with the state we call "dreaming" in humans.

Incidentally, chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans seem to dream as well. Chimps have even been known to walk about while brain monitors indicated that they were still asleep. There is some evidence that dreaming is far more common as one ascends the intelligence scale, which the above data bear out rather well.

As for the purpose of dreaming – we really do not know what it is, in either the human or animal kingdom.

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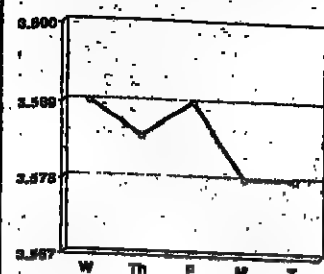
BUSINESS & FINANCE

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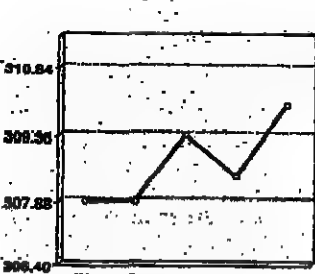
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in brief

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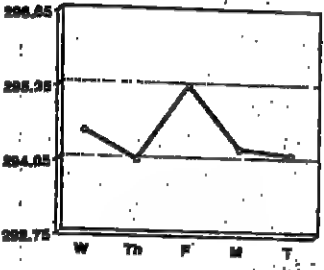


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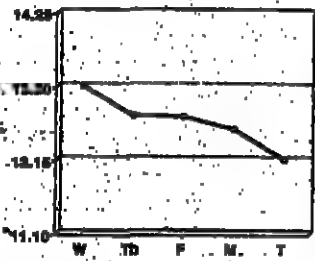
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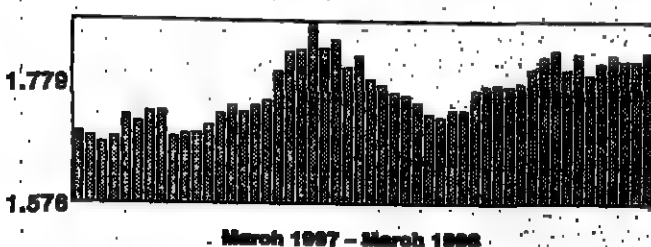


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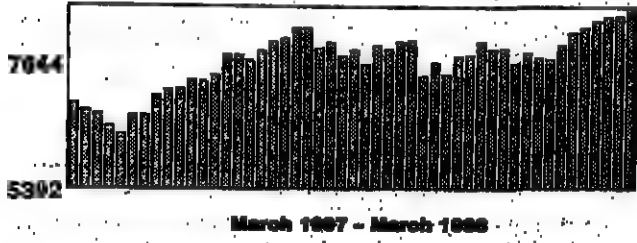
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Elbit delivers 40th MiG upgrade for Romania

Elbit Systems announced yesterday that the upgrade of Romania's MiG-21 fighter jets has reached a milestone as they have registered over 1,000 flights equipped with NATO-compatible avionics.

Elbit has recently delivered the 40th upgraded Lance MiG-21 out of 110 that are supposed to be upgraded as part of a deal worth over \$345 million. The upgrade is part of a joint venture with Romania's aerospace group Aerostar. Romania is keen on getting into NATO and its 110 upgraded MiG-21 fighters will make their weapons and equipment compatible with those of NATO countries, an Elbit statement said. *Ariel Q. Sullivan*

Israel top solar water heater producer

Israel produces more solar water heater systems than any other country, selling 180,000 systems in 1997, a growth of 4% compared with 1996, according to Yehoshua Droni, who heads the producers' group in the Manufacturers Association. Exports of the systems amounted to \$10 million in 1997 and were expected to increase 15% this year. Total sales of the solar systems last year amounted to NIS 500 million. *Nina Gilbert*

Cellcom posts NIS 281m. in profits

By NINA GILBERT

Cellcom had its first profitable year in 1997, registering a NIS 281 million net profit compared with a loss of NIS 45m. in 1996. The company also boosted its subscribers by 65 percent.

However, starting this year, the Herzliya-based cellular phone provider, entering its fourth year, will have to pay income tax on profits.

"Despite this change, we believe we can maintain profits in 1998 by boosting the number of customers and offering more services to subscribers," Cellcom CEO and president Ya'acov Perry told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday. "Even if we had paid this

36% tax in 1997, we would have made a very good profit."

Revenues doubled last year to NIS 2.1 billion, mostly due to the rise in subscribers to 844,000 from 513,000 and a rise in rates.

Asked if the company is under pressure by owners to maintain the same profit level in 1998, Perry said: "We became more efficient in 1997, and will continue to take efficiency measures this year."

However, Perry said the company will continue to be affected by the slowdown in the economy. The firm noted a drop last year in the average air time used per customer, especially among new subscribers.

Also this year, the third cellular provider, the Partner Group, will start operating. "We

are preparing for this competition, and will maintain an aggressive sales strategy," Perry said. "We will also concentrate on customer retention."

The company will offer more types of telephones, services that will replace pagers, and Internet connections.

Under Cellcom's license for the network, the company's prices are regulated until 2000.

Cellcom's results contributed NIS 35m. to the annual results of Discount Investments, which owns 12% of the company.

Discount Investments, part of the IDB group, yesterday reported a rise in net profit to NIS 41.5m. from NIS 17.4m. in 1996. The result includes a one-time profit from the sale

of holdings in Iscar, now fully owned by the Wertheimer family, and Blades Technology.

Excluding the one-time income, profits rose 63%. In the fourth quarter, net profit rose to NIS 31m. from NIS 29m. in the same period a year earlier.

Due to the results, the company decided to pay a one-time dividend of NIS 60m., in addition to the NIS 20m. dividend already set.

The company noted that for the first time profits from communications and high-tech were greater than from industry, amounting to NIS 84m. compared with a loss of NIS 10m. in 1996.

Discount Investments also owns 26.4% of Elron and 6.6% of Sciex.



FBI managing director Shlomo Piotrkowsky (center) warns yesterday that the economic slowdown may hurt bank profits.

First Int'l Bank net profit up 19% in '97

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The First International Bank of Israel reported yesterday that net profit rose 19 percent last year to NIS 223.6 million from NIS 187.9m. in 1996.

The bank, which is one of the country's largest, also reported its earnings, said net profit in the fourth quarter rose 11.7% to NIS 50.7m. from NIS 45.4m. during the same period a year earlier.

FBI managing director Shlomo Piotrkowsky said that as a result of the slowing economy the provision for doubtful debt rose 42% to NIS 87.3m. from NIS 61.5m.

He said the slowdown may hurt the bank's profits in the future.

"Despite the economic achievements of reducing inflation and lowering the budget deficit, we should be aware of possible

[negative] economic development," Piotrkowsky said. "The economy hasn't reached an equilibrium yet."

He said that interest rates are too high, with real interest reaching more than 6%, compared with 5% in 1996.

Piotrkowsky added that the shekel is currently overvalued by 30%.

The bank, which is a member of the international Safra banking group, said net operating revenues rose 13.7% to NIS 523.3m. from NIS 460.3m. a year earlier.

Credit to the public on December 31 was NIS 25.4 billion, as against NIS 22.1b. a year earlier.

The main increase was in credit to the financial sector, which rose to NIS 3.7b., the equivalent of 11.8% of the bank's credit, compared with 9.6% a year earlier.

The bank attributed the rise mainly to

loans given to the Arison group, which purchased a controlling stake in Bank Hapoalim last year.

Deposits from the public were 32.7b. on December 31, compared with NIS 27.1b. a year earlier.

Net return on capital rose to 10.5% from 9.2%. Income from finance activities, before provisions for bad loans, went up 10.3% to NIS 860.7m. from 780.4m. in 1996.

Operating income increased 13.7% to NIS 523.3m. from NIS 460.3m.

The bank said it plans to raise \$200m. this year by offering five-year Eurobonds on the London Stock Exchange.

FBI said it recorded profits of NIS 23.5m. from investments in stocks. The gain was mainly attributed to the sale of the bank's holdings in Koor Industries.

Levayev negotiating for half of Delek control

Africa Israel controlling shareholder Lev Levayev is in advanced negotiations for an option to purchase the 50 percent of control in Delek Israel held by Yitzhak Teshuva, 25% of the company's shares.

In return, Levayev will give Teshuva a \$160 million guarantee, as required to conclude the deal reached with Discount Investments' holdings in Delek. If he decides not to exercise the option, Levayev will receive monetary compensation.

The deal was reportedly made with Levayev personally, and not with Africa Israel.

Teshuva ran into difficulties in completing the transaction and realizing the agreement with Discount Investments, when David Federman retracted his original intention of entering into partnership in Delek.

Teshuva was required to give a \$160 million guarantee to finalize the agreement with Discount Investments. Teshuva approached various concerns in relation to the matter, including Bank Leumi.

The bank demanded that Teshuva put up his shares in Delek and other companies as collateral for the guarantee. But these shares are already mortgaged to Bank Hapoalim, against credit extended for the purchase of 50% of Delek's shares from Eliezer Fishman, from the bank, and on the stock exchange.

Once Teshuva finished purchasing the (50%) control in Delek at the beginning of the month, he signed an agreement with Discount Investments, which holds 37%, for the joint management of Delek for one year, at the end of which time an effort will be made to arrange control in Delek. (Globes)

Biran wants more Israeli subcontractors for fighter jets

By ARIEL O'SULLIVAN

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran yesterday made a strong case for including Israeli firms as subcontractors in the next generation fighter jet air force to be bought from the US. Speaking at the sixth annual Industrial Cooperation Conference in Tel Aviv, Biran said he wants to make sure future aircraft deals include Israeli firms.

"The competition for the new fighter aircraft promises even a

brighter future. It is certain to create new opportunities for Israeli companies to develop new business relationships with Boeing and with other US aerospace firms," Biran said.

The IAF is considering purchasing 20-40 F-15Is or 25-70 latest-block F-16s for a total of about \$2 billion as part of its 10-year modernization plan. Both Boeing, which produces the F-15, and Lockheed Martin, maker of the F-16, have been courting Israel since late last year.

Biran was careful not to favor one company or the other. But he hinted that the deal would be sweetened if Israeli firms were sub-contracted in the overall agreement.

The 25 F-15Is which are arriving this year were the first jets to be ordered in which Israeli contractors are involved in the production stage. Biran wants to make this a precedent.

The conference was hosted by the Boeing Corporation and Israel's Industrial Cooperation Authority.

Livnat wants funding for new cable channels

By LIAT COLLINS

Communications Minister Limor Livnat asked the Knesset Economics Committee yesterday to approve financing through advertising for five planned new cable channels aimed at specific audiences.

The channels are planned for Arabs, immigrants, the religious, and possibly a news channel, and one for Israeli music.

Committee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) promised to bring the matter for a vote before he ends his term in July.

The meeting was marked by the undertones of an opposition-coalition struggle, particularly over Livnat's plan for a news channel. Opposition MKs appear to fear

the station would be financed by businessmen close to the Right.

Representatives of Channel 2 franchise holders opposed the whole idea at yesterday's meeting. They said the plan to finance the specific channels via advertising would seriously affect Channel 2, the commercial television station.

Tel Ad director-general Uzi Peled said he had come to the committee "to protect the small Israeli advertising market."

This amounts to some \$600-\$700 million annually, of which Channel 2 receives about a third.

Antitrust Authority director David Tadmor said he favors the move, as there is not enough competition in either the advertising market or among the broadcast companies. "There is today a monopoly by Channel 2 and this affects the whole market," he said.

Tadmor said smaller companies are pushed aside, because they cannot afford the high price of advertising on television.

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) objected to the plans and said the committee had no authority to discuss the establishment of a news channel.

He said the new channels would reduce the income from advertising for the existing stations, and this would affect the quality of the productions and programs.

Livnat rejected the criticism, saying "the Channel 2 franchise holders are just, legitimately, looking after their own interests."

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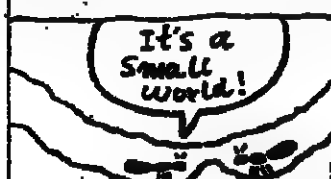
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SUMMER TIME

Summer time begins
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(Thursday,
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at midnight.

Passengers are advised to
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The worst is yet to come

While Asia's ailing economies seem to be stabilizing, analysts are warning that a major fall in industrial production and widespread layoffs are on the way

By KEITH B. RICHBURG

HONG KONG — The region's currencies have largely stabilized — they are far lower in value, but no longer plummeting. Stock markets have ended their downward slide for now. Parliaments are revising laws, opening up closed economies and allowing foreigners larger chunks of the pie. And overseas firms are already in the neighborhood, cautiously poking through the rubble in search of bargains.

Is the worst finally over for Southeast Asia's ailing "tiger" economies? After eight months of financial turmoil, is the region now looking at recovery? Not quite, say economists and regional analysts. In fact, most warn that the worst is yet to come.

"The economic shoe is only just beginning to fall," said David Roche, chief strategist for the London-based group Independent Strategy. For one thing, he said, the region has not yet experienced the major fall in industrial production - or the widespread layoffs - expected later in the year, particularly in South Korea and Thailand as they begin to implement the painful restructuring programs mandated by their international

Monetary Fund bailout packages. "In the next three to six months, we're going to see a lot more stories about corporate failures and bank failures," said Andy Tan, general manager of the Standard and Poor's office in Singapore.

That's a foregone conclusion." That was also the message of Thailand's Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, who said in an interview before his visit to Washington this week. "Quite frankly, no, it has not passed yet." Gloomy statistics and forecasts seem to confirm that much more trouble is ahead. Inflation is rising—the annualized rate in Thailand is 8.9 percent, in South Korea it is 9.5%, and in Indonesia, it's a whopping 32%. Growth forecasts have been shaved across the region, with Thailand's economy now expected to shrink by as much as 3.5% this year. And new projections say millions more Asians will be out of work this year. In Thailand alone, unemployment is at 1.5 million and is projected to rise to 2 million in 1998.

One uncertain element haunting the region is the outlook for China, where economists and others fear a growth slowdown in the world's most populous nation



A protester holds a poster stating 'Stop Corruption' at an unlawful anti-government rally in Jakarta. Amid Indonesia's worst economic crisis in decades, a few hundred students staged a noisy demonstration demanding government reform. (AP)

**could dramatically disrupt
Southeast Asia's recovery
efforts**

While Chinese officials insist they can achieve 8% growth this year, down from 8.8% last year, most analysts believe that is optimistic. Last week, Chinese officials said foreign investment could drop by a third, the \$40 billion trade surplus could evaporate, and millions more Chinese workers could face unemployment. Most analysts are forecasting growth slowing to 4% to 7%.

A nightmare for Southeast Asia would come if China decided to devalue its currency, the yuan, to make its exports more competitive.

That would not only disrupt the Hong Kong dollar's current "peg" to the US greenback, it would likely set off a wave of competitive devaluations that

would further hamper efforts at economic revival.

that appears unlikely, at least for a while. Chinese officials have insisted they have no plans to devalue; the currency is not freely convertible, and China has a \$140 billion war chest of foreign reserves. But even without a devaluation, China is feeling pressed to keep competitive for export markets and investment dollars.

Sanjoy Chowdhury, managing director of Fraser-AMMB Research Pte Ltd. in Singapore, said that after the last Southeast Asian downturn in 1985, it was two years before the region's economies were able to revive. This time, he said, he does not expect a turnaround until the latter half of 1999. "We may be close to the bottom, but I'm not sure it will be turning anytime

soon," Chowdhury said.

The main trouble spot remains Indonesia, which is grappling with its worst economic and social crisis in three decades. After 32 years in power, President Suharto was unanimously elected to another five-year term by an assembly he largely controls. But the future still looks uncertain, with food riots and attacks on ethnic Chinese in the provinces, unrest on college campuses in the capital and questions about whether the country's new vice president,

B.J.
Habibie, is a credible successor
to Suharto

Even more troubling are concerns that Suharto, 76, is preparing to jettison the country's IMF reform package, which he has reportedly described as violating the country's constitution. The latest disbursement has already been held up, prompting fears the entire package is unraveling. And Suharto's new cabinet, named this weekend, is made up of cronies, including one of his closest business associates, and his eldest daughter. Their appointments are likely to uperve foreign investors.

The battered Indonesian rupiah has reflected those concerns, plummeting to as low as 12,500 to the dollar, down from around 2,500 last fall. Even at 9,000 rupiah to the dollar, which now seems an optimistic level, most Indonesian companies were technically bankrupt, imports of badly needed raw materials and medicine were prohibitively expensive and much of the country's manufacturing activity had ground to a halt.

Continuing deterioration in the world's fourth most populous country, many observers believe, could spark a social explosion or a massive outflow of economic refugees. Local newspapers have reported that 40 boatloads of illegal Indonesian immigrants have landed in Malaysia in the last three weeks.

"If you're looking at structural changes that need to be put in place, then yes, that looks like it's happening around the region, in South Korea, in Thailand," said Bruce Gale of the Singapore-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy group. "The Achilles' heel, though, is Indonesia - and this is why you have this parade of government officials from all over the place flying into Jakarta." Several analysts said political factors may still cause problems

even in countries making progress toward recovery.

In Thailand, where Prime Minister Chuan has received widespread praise for adhering to strict IMF guidelines, the government faces a parliamentary vote of confidence this month. In the Philippines, which generally has been less affected by the regional crisis, elections in May could see a populist former movie actor, Joseph Estrada, become the next president. Foreign investors and local business leaders question whether Estrada would continue the liberalization and privatization measures now under way.

Even in South Korea, where newly elected President Kim Dae Jung's bold pledges of reform have managed to stabilize the markets after months of financial turmoil, the president faces an unruly National Assembly controlled by his opponents and a revolt by powerful conglomerates against his reform plans.

There are also serious new concerns that Malaysia may be in worse shape financially than the government in Kuala Lumpur has acknowledged so far.

With countries now liberalizing their rules on foreign ownership, and with everything from banks to factories offered at fire-sale prices, this is supposed to be the time when overseas companies come to Asia to look for bargains — bringing with them badly need-

So far, there has been plenty of browsing, but few signed deals.

"Not many people are prepared to put their money in," said Lim Say Boon of Crosby Corporate Advisory in Singapore. "Anyone with longer than an 18-month horizon would find this a great time to get in," he said. But "if you're the CEO of a very large corporation, you have to answer to your stockholders once a year."

What is missing now – besides a solution in Indonesia – is a single country or market to act as a catalyst to the region, similar to the role Japan played in kick-starting Asian economic growth a decade ago.

This time, despite pressure from the United States and Western Europe, Japan has shown little enthusiasm for intervening to spur its own stagnant economy and start buying more

The other two large markets in the region, China and India, are consumed by their own internal problems. (Washington Post)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	net cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	NIS assets (million)	Fund's name	net cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	NIS assets (million)	Fund's name	net cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	1996 (%)	NIS assets (million)
FLEXIBLE						FLEXIBLE						FLEXIBLE					
Adar	228.88	226.25	+1.35	+2.71	18.8	Emek Maor	218.18	217.55	+5.08	+0.25	41.7	Almog Peken	288.58	281.50	-0.81	-5.32	141.8
Adar Flexible	104.98	103.25	+2.44	+1.10	28.0	Emek Peken	186.77	186.77	2.12	-2.89	13.0	Almog Peken	288.58	281.50	-0.81	-5.32	141.8
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LAST
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75.0625

-0.626
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 -0.6076
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 -0.5
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Minor Storms	65.625	-0.1875
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Atherton pulls his fingers out

AN expression you wouldn't associate with the England cricket captain Michael Atherton is "sharp practice."

Some aficionados of the game have suggested that in order to improve his performance on the field, Atherton could do with a bit of SP. But what is referred to here is the cricketing equivalent of fly-by-night sharp practice which has put Atherton in the spotlight for the wrong reasons.

When South Africa toured England in 1994, Atherton was spotted rubbing dirt on the ball to roughen up the seam, an incident which caused an end of debate around what could be defined as appropriate tampering with the ball.

The latest incident came on the second day of the Fifth Test against the West Indies in Barbados. Atherton was apparently becoming as frustrated as his bowlers with Philo Wallace and Clayton Lambert crashing the ball to all parts of the ground.

When Wallace was given out low to Dean Headley, Atherton offered the batsman a two-fingered gesture which presumably was not meant in an advisory capacity as to the best level of the shower Wallace should use back in the dressing room.

The gesture was not seen by spectators, nor was it picked up by television. It was snapped up by an eager photographer, and in a game which has already seen a fair deal of fiction, was eventually given the full treatment by the media.

After being on the receiving end of adverse publicity the previous week over a scandal involving a receptionist and senior officer (the usual soap opera stuff of illicit affair, night of

passion and abortion) at cricket HQ, Lord's, the England and Welsh Cricket Board could have handled the Atherton incident with greater tact.

Instead of apologizing for the "heat of the moment" gesture, the Board denied and even tried to suppress the incident.

LONDON CALLING

By Mark Wynn

IT has been a good weekend for the Premiership after Arsenal's dramatic win at Manchester United. A few weeks ago, bookmakers had closed their books on Manchester United winning the Premiership - one bookie had in fact started to pay out punters who had backed the champions. But they didn't reckon on Arsenal.

Arsene Wenger's team have not exactly been setting the Premiership alight with attacking and creative football - but they have been picking up points steadily, and perhaps of greater significance, they have not been losing.

The general consensus is that a team cannot afford to lose more than six games to win a title - United's defeat on Saturday was their seventh this season. And with Peter Schmeichel limping off at the end of the game, it may just be Arsenal's year.

One team who will have an important bearing on the destiny of the title, without themselves being involved in it, are Newcastle United, whose disappointing season can only be salvaged by winning the FA Cup.

Newcastle travel to both Old Trafford and Highbury in the coming weeks desperate for points as recent poor form has seen them slide

towards the relegation zone.

THAT famous 1970's hit song "Fog on the Tyne" had an ironic ring to it over the weekend with a tabloid paper's allegation that club chairman Freddie Shepherd and majority shareholder Douglas Hall had been using the services of prostitutes around Europe and had made fun of the amount of money the club had made from

gullible fans who had bought replica club shirts.

There was a further allegation that Hall and Shepherd had described Newcastle women as "dogs".

And in the current money-crazed atmosphere of football, it's a toss-up to which is plunging faster - the team towards relegation or the share price which on Friday closed at 88 pence, a fall of 48 pence since the flotation nearly a year ago.

But the real problem is the fans' relationship with Shepherd and Hall, son of the popular former chairman, Sir John Hall, who resigned from the chairmanship in December and handed over control to his son.

One fan told the *Guardian* newspaper on Monday that if either Shepherd or Douglas Hall "had the nerve to come back to St James' Park, they would have to face the consequences."

ANOTHER club in trouble is Crystal Palace who chalked up a club record eighth successive defeat in their 3-1 setback at Aston Villa

on Saturday to stay firmly rooted to the bottom of the table. With Terry Venables and Paul Gascoigne still making up their minds about joining the sinking ship, a few eyebrows were raised at the end of the week with the appointment of Italian winger Attilio Lombardo as caretaker manager until the end of the season.

Lombardo may be described as folkily challenged, and he had any locks, he certainly would be pulling them out to meet the challenge of keeping Palace up.

But of greater concern is the level of Lombardo's English, which is so poor that he needs an interpreter at all times. Lombardo's pre-match team-talk on Saturday presumably had some tongue-twisters for the interpreter as by half-time Palace were 3-0 down, eventually losing 3-1. But it was nice to see Lombardo slipping into the English managerial cliché-mode like a glove: "If we show spirit and determination we have a chance," he said after the game.

At least that is what the sub-title read.

FINALLY, spare a thought for poor Doncaster Rovers, bottom of the Third Division 12 points adrift of the next club Brighton and heading out of the league. On Saturday Rovers lost 7-1 at Cardiff and before the game the players were told not to report for training any more as there was no money to pay them.

When Ade Moke scored for Rovers in the final minute to make the score 7-1, the presenter of Sky Sports results program chipped in with: "Ah, a Doncaster comeback." Cruel world is football.

SPORTS

in brief

Manchester United want new training complex

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United are seeking planning permission to build a new £14.3 million (\$23.8 million) training complex.

The cost of the facilities, to be built on a site at Carrington, near Manchester, would come from United's own cash resources, the club said yesterday.

Work is to begin as soon as planning approval is obtained, the club said. The first phase is expected to be completed by July 1999 with the final handover in July 2000.

The planned facilities include nine full size pitches plus one extended pitch with undersoil heating and an adjoining rehabilitation area.

Austrian Herzog to stay with Bremen

BONN (Reuters) - Austrian international midfielder Andreas Herzog will stay with Werder Bremen until 2002, the German first division club said yesterday.

Herzog, who joined Bremen in 1996 from Bayern Munich, has extended his contract for another four years.

"We are delighted that Andreas has turned down offers from foreign clubs and decided to continue his career at Werder Bremen," said club president Franz Boehmert.

Police: Slovak hockey chief committed suicide

BRATISLAVA (AP) - Top Slovak hockey administrator Dusan Pasek, who was found dead in his office, committed suicide, police officials said Monday.

Pasek, a former Czech star who later played in the National Hockey League, left behind six handwritten letters apologizing to his close friends and relatives. Interior Ministry spokesman Peter Ondra said.

Pasek, 38, was married and had three children. He was serving president of the Slovak Ice Hockey Association.

Pasek played in five world championships, two Olympics and three Canada Cups. He was a member of the Czechoslovak national team that won the world championship in 1985, and also was Czechoslovakia's leading scorer in the 1988 Olympics with six goals and 11 points in eight games.

Sky, BBC to share cricket World Cup coverage

LONDON (Reuters) - Sky Sports and BBC Television and Radio will share coverage of next year's cricket World Cup to be staged in Britain and Ireland.

In a statement released last week, the England and Wales Cricket Board said Sky Sports and the BBC would share television coverage of the 42-match tournament. BBC Radio will broadcast commentary and updates on the games.

The final at Lord's on June 20 will be shown live on both Sky Sports and BBC Television.

Referee shows dog red card

MADRID (Reuters) - A dog that invaded the pitch during a junior match in Spain was shown a red card by the referee.

"The dog bowed its head when it saw the card, and went off to the touchline," said Fernando Vicente, manager of Salamanca in Sunday's under-16 game with San Andres.

Tel Aviv marathon a breeze for motorists

By HEATHER CHAIT

Tel Aviv's motorists can relax - the Tel Aviv marathon to be held next Friday has been shifted northwards, out of the city limits, to avert the inevitable traffic snarls.

After last year's race when Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo promised that no more marathons would be run in his city, the half-marathon race route this year appeases both the drivers and the municipality.

The 18th race is expected to draw 2,000 runners in the 21.1 kilometer half-marathon which sets off at 09:15 and 10,000 runners in the 6km and 2km popular races 09:30.

The races will begin at the Hader Yosef stadium with the route concentrating around the north Tel Aviv and Roshayim areas.

Among the runners for the main event are Kenya's Philomena Metto who set the course record of one hour, two minutes, 23 seconds in 1995 and a runner from Burundi whose best time is 1:01:40.

Prize money for the foreign winner will be \$750 with a local winner pocketing NIS 1,500.

The race is organized by Hapoel, sponsors of the run are Mei Eden, Nike, Basel Hotel, Hyundai, Sportoto and Kupat Holim Chai.

To register, call 03 5613322.

EU wants plan to keep remaining World Cup tickets from French fans

BRUSSELS (AP) - The European Union gave World Cup organizers in France until the end of the week to present a plan for keeping remaining tickets for the finals out of the hands of the French fans or face sanctions.

Complaining that a large majority of the 2.5 million tickets had already been sold in the host nation, the executive commission of the 15-nation EU is insisting the remaining 160,000 seats go exclusively to non-French nationals.

"It's necessary to counterbalance major discrimination," said EU spokesman Stefan Raiting following an inconclusive meeting between EU Competition Commissioner Karel Van Miert and Jacques Lambert, director general of the World Cup organizing Committee, or CFC.

The CFC has been the target of widespread complaints and criticism after it became clear that tickets for foreign fans would nowhere near meet the huge demand, while two-thirds of the tickets were put on the French market.

Organizers said they received 20 million requests for tickets for the 64 games and were bound to disappoint many fans since the stadiums only accommodated a fraction of that demand.

The commission gave the CFC until Friday to present a new plan. "If they are not forthcoming we will have to proceed," Raiting said. Legal steps could result in heavy fines.

Insisting the remaining tickets be sold only outside of France will put the EU Commission on a collision course with the French government.

Sports Minister Marie-George Buffet said over the weekend that Van Miert's position amounted to "discrimination against the organizing country." Since French authorities helped finance soccer's premier event, "excluding the French from the remaining tickets would be a great injustice," she said.

Of the 160,000 remaining tickets, 50,000 are already allocated for foreign soccer federations, with the 110,000 aimed at the public at large. "The whole issue is whether the 'general public' includes French nationals," said Raiting.

The CFC has said it wants to make an effort to adapt its ticket distribution but warned any changes would be minimal since certain tickets would have to be sold on the French market for security reasons.

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Syracuse set to face Duke

SYRACUSE (AP) — Two games. Two struggles. Two wins. Even though his Syracuse Orangemen have scored the fewest points of the 16 teams remaining in the NCAA tournament, coach Jim Boeheim can afford to smile because so far they've found that elusive key to success in March.

"We didn't play at our best, but we played well enough to win. That's the secret at this stage," Boeheim said Monday. "The first couple of games in the tournament we found a way to win."

The biggest challenge of the season awaits Friday night in St. Petersburg, Fla. Syracuse (26-8) meets Duke (31-3), the top seed in the South Regional.

So far, the Orangemen have overcome the challenges thrown their way. They got a last-second 3-pointer from Marius Janulis to beat Iowa 63-61 in the first round, then shot just 34 percent Sunday and still beat fourth-seeded New Mexico 56-46.

"Tournament play is very difficult," Boeheim said. "The first game we had a bad first half and then we just had a war on our hands in the second half with Iowa. We had to make big plays down the stretch, and that's a tribute to the way we played all year long. We made those big plays."

"Against New Mexico, we just kind of hung on with our defense and our rebounding. Our rebounding was excellent, probably as well as we've ever rebounded in the zone. That's why we're still playing. Hopefully, we've got something better left in us."

One thing Syracuse has is experience in Janulis and Todd Burgan, co-captains and wily veterans.

"This is a big game, but you can't stress yourself out worrying about making one mistake because it's a long game," said Burgan, who led the way against New Mexico with 20 points and 10 rebounds. "We weren't expected to be here," said forward Ryan Blackwell. "We know we can get the job done."

Especially with that 2-3 zone defense, which Syracuse has used so well to reach the NCAA championship game two years ago. Duke, which is coming off a tough 79-73 win over Oklahoma State, will see plenty of the configuration that held New Mexico to a season-low 26 percent shooting and produced a

49-36 rebounding edge. "It's a good defense if it's played the right way, and for the most part this year we've played it pretty well," Boeheim said.

"There's a lot of little things that we try to do in the zone that make it a little different from other people's zones, so that when people come up against us, they're not seeing something that they've seen before." Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski probably has, though. And his Blue Devils, who have been ranked at or near the top of the national polls all season, have scored 59 more points in the tournament than Syracuse.

No problem. "We won't be intimidated," Boeheim said. "That doesn't mean they couldn't beat us, but we're not going to be intimidated by anybody."

North Carolina vs. Michigan State

North Carolina expects Michigan State to live up to at least one Big Ten reputation — physical play.

Many of the Tar Heels are talking about the Spartans' rebounding prowess.

The subject came up Monday following a vastly different rebounding games over the weekend from two of the nation's top rebounding clubs.

"They really aren't that tall, but they really have a knack for the ball. It is like they have eight or nine Antawn Jamisons on that team," Vince Carter said of the fourth-seeded Spartans (22-7).

The top-seeded Tar Heels (32-3) had their second-worst effort on the boards this season in an overtime victory against North Carolina-Charlotte on Saturday, losing the rebounding battle by nine. Meanwhile, the Spartans, fifth in the nation in rebounding margin, held a 38-13 advantage over Princeton.

A program that has led the ACC in rebounding six times in the 1990s tends to take it personal when it gets whipped on the boards. North Carolina paced the ACC in rebounding again this season, but are the Tar Heels really that good? "We think so, but sometimes we don't show it."

Meanwhile, Guthridge downplayed an obvious North Carolina advantage — playing in the 23,733-seat Greensboro Coliseum, which is about 60 miles from Chapel Hill.

EAST REGIONAL			
Regional Semifinals			
At Greensboro (NC) Coliseum			
Thursday, March 19			
North Carolina (32-3) vs. Michigan State (22-7), 7:30 p.m. (All times EST)			
Connecticut (31-4) vs. Washington (20-9), 9:59 p.m.			
Regional Championship			
Sunday, March 22, 8 p.m.			
SOUTH REGIONAL			
Regional Semifinals			
At Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, Fla.			
Friday, March 20			
Duke (31-3) vs. Syracuse (26-8), 7:30 p.m.			
Kentucky (31-4) vs. UCLA (24-9), 9:59 p.m.			
Regional Championship			
Sunday, March 22, 8 p.m.			

Malone's second-half spurt helps Jazz defeat Timberwolves



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Karl Malone scored 21 of his 29 points in the second half Monday night as the Utah Jazz extended their winning streak to 11 with a 102-96 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

John Stockton scored 10 of his 22 points in the final 4:50 of the game as the Jazz overcame a 91-87 deficit.

Pistons 103, Heat 90

Grant Hill scored 26 points as Detroit won on the road.

Brian Williams added 17 points for the Pistons, who won for only the third time in their last 14 road games.

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	45	21	.682	—
New York	35	29	.547	9
Washington	34	31	.523	10 1/2
New Jersey	34	32	.515	11
Orlando	32	32	.500	12
Boston	29	35	.453	15
Philadelphia	24	39	.381	19 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	48	17	.738	—
Indiana	45	19	.703	2 1/2
Charlotte	41	24	.631	7
Atlanta	38	25	.603	9
Cleveland	34	30	.531	13 1/2
Detroit	30	35	.462	18
Milwaukee	29	35	.453	18 1/2
Toronto	14	49	.222	33

Hornets 109, Nuggets 87

Matt Geiger had 18 points and 14 rebounds as host Charlotte ended Denver's season-best, two-game winning streak. Dell Curry added 18 points and Glen Rice had 17 as the Hornets won for the 11th time in 12 games and ended the Nuggets' bid for their first three-game winning streak since December 1996.

Bulls 88, Nets 72

Toni Kukoc scored 14 of his 21 points in the third quarter, when host Chicago outscored the New Jersey Nets 30-10, and the Bulls went on to win despite a poor performance by Michael Jordan.

Jordan had 17 points, 11 fewer than his NBA-leading average.

Jordan also committed four turnovers, missed three free throws and was 6-for-15 from the field.

Spurs 96, Bucks 85

Tim Duncan had 25 points and 17 rebounds as host San Antonio

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	48	16	.750	—
San Antonio	44	21	.677	4 1/2
Houston	33	31	.516	15
Minnesota	33	32	.508	15 1/2
Vancouver	15	48	.238	32 1/2
Denver	14	51	.215	34 1/2
Dallas	7	59	.106	42
Pacific Division				
Seattle	49	15	.766	—
Los Angeles	45	19	.703	4
Phoenix	43	21	.672	6
Portland	36	27	.571	12 1/2
Sacramento	26	40	.394	24
Golden State	14	50	.219	35
LA Clippers	14	50	.219	35

beat the slumping Milwaukee Bucks.

David Robinson added 21 points for San Antonio, while Vinny Del Negro had 15.

Rookie Jerod Hinesy scored a career-high 16 points for Milwaukee, which has lost six straight and nine of its last 10.

DETROIT				
W	25	27	28	103
L	24	29	24	87
Pct.	.481	.481	.538	.538
GB	—	—	—	—

DETROIT (AP) — Grant Hill scored 26 points and 14 rebounds as Detroit won on the road.

Brian Williams added 17 points for the Pistons, who won for only the third time in their last 14 road games.

DETROIT				
W	25	27	28	103
L	24	29	24	87
Pct.	.481	.481	.538	.538
GB	—	—	—	—

SuperSonics 101, Lakers 89

Gary Payton scored 12 of his 27 points in the final quarter as host Seattle improved to 3-0 against the Los Angeles Lakers this season.

L.A. came back from a 21-point, first-half deficit to tie the score in the final quarter before Seattle pulled away in the final 7 minutes.

MILWAUKEE				
W	22	17	26	85
L	24	29	24	87
Pct.	.444	.444	.538	.538
GB	—	—	—	—

MILWAUKEE (AP) — David Robinson added 21 points for San Antonio, while Vinny Del Negro had 15.

Rookie Jerod Hinesy scored a career-high 16 points for Milwaukee, which has lost six straight and nine of its last 10.

DETROIT				
W	25	27	28	103
L	24	29	24	87
Pct.	.481	.481	.538	.538
GB	—	—	—	—

Pedro said there'd be days like this

FORT MYERS, Florida (AP) — Pedro Martinez knows that the fans in Boston have high expectations for him this season. That's fine with him.

But if they think that the reigning NL Cy Young award winner and highest-paid player in baseball history will never have a bad game, he has news for them.

"The outings like this are going to happen. And they are real," he said Monday after absorbing a 6-4 loss to the Yankees. "It's spring training, but this was a game where I was trying to not give up runs and I did give them up. So they'd better be ready."

The 26-year-old Martinez was 17-8 with a 1.90 ERA and 305 strikeouts with Montreal last year, winning the NL Cy Young Award.

The Dominican was traded to the Red Sox for two pitching prospects and then given a six-year, \$75 million contract that makes him the highest-paid player in baseball history.

In Boston, the deal revived interest in a team that had been increasingly ignored since Roger Clemens left the previous offseason. And once spring training started, Martinez put a face on the excitement, drawing gasps from the crowd when he warmed up and full houses when he pitched.

Martinez compiled a 2.53 ERA through three starts, striking out 12 and walking two in 10 1/3 innings. In his last outing, on Wednesday, he struck out eight in five scoreless innings.

But he struggled from the start on Monday in front of a City of Palms attendance record of 7,049.

Three of the first four batters singled before he struck out the last two to end the first inning.

In all, Martinez allowed five runs on six hits and a walk. He struck out seven, but lasted just four innings before reaching his maximum pitch count of 75.

Andy Pettitte allowed four runs on five hits and four walks in five innings. Strawberry was 2-for-2 with three RBIs, and Ivan Cruz drove in two runs for the Yankees.

"There's going to be days like this. So they'd better get ready," he said. "Just like there are going to be a lot of good games, where they're going to go home and be happy. There are going to be days like this. And worse."

Tigers to be financed by Japanese bank

The owner of the Detroit Tigers will borrow \$145 million from a Japanese bank to cover his share of building the baseball team's new downtown stadium.

Mike Ilitch was expected to announce an agreement in principle with Sumitomo Bank Ltd. of Tokyo for the loan. Detroit Free Press columnist Doron Levin reported.

Ilitch had been negotiating with a consortium of local banks for a loan covering his share of the project, which totals \$260 million. But after more than a year of fruitless talks, Ilitch turned to Sumitomo — which has bankrolled other sports facilities in North America, Levin said.

Ilitch, the founder of Little Caesars Pizza, also owns the Detroit Red Wings of the NHL, the Fox Theatre and other Detroit entertainment venues.



STAYIN' ALIVE — Jack Nicklaus will be able to keep his consecutive major championship streak alive, begun in 1957. (Reuters)

Nicklaus receives special exemption to US Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Jack Nicklaus can play in the US Open, after all. The USGA has given Nicklaus special exemptions for the next two tournaments through the year 2000.

When Nicklaus was not among those given exemptions by the USGA in January it appeared his streak of consecutive major championships would end at 145 after this year's Masters.

But Monday's decision by the USGA means Nicklaus can extend that streak through the 2001 Masters, if he chooses, pushing it to 157 consecutive major championships. He has lifetime invitations to the Masters and the PGA Championship and can play the British Open until he is 65.

This year's US Open is June 18-21 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. The 1999 Open is at Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina, and the 2000 tournament is at Pebble Beach.

"The invitation was a surprise to Jack," Nicklaus spokesman Scott Tolley said from Golden Bear offices in North Palm Beach, Florida. "He told USGA officials he would call them back this week."

Tolley said Nicklaus felt the position he was being offered was an important spot for a young golfer and that he wanted to feel certain he was physically able to play before accepting.

The US Open is the centerpiece of Nicklaus' season. If he decides to play in the Open it not only means he will likely play all four majors but it also means he will play other tournaments to get ready.

Scott Simpson, the winner of the 1987 US Open at Olympic who took the Buick Invitational in February for his first PGA Tour victory in five years, was also granted a special exemption.

"I am grateful to the USGA for this invitation and its faith in me as a past champion," Simpson, 43, said.

Nicklaus has played in every Open since he

was a 17-year-old amateur in 1957 and has said he would play as long as he feels competitive.

At Doral two weeks ago, Nicklaus shot rounds of 70, 74, 72 and 71, finishing in 58th place at 5-over-par 293, 15 strokes behind winner Michael Bradley.

Nicklaus, 58, has won 18 major professional championships and two US Amateur titles. He won his first US Open at the age 22 in 1962. Only Nicklaus, Bob Jones, Willie Anderson and Ben Hogan have won the US Open four times.

Nicklaus has played in all four of the majors each year since turning pro in 1962 and has played in 152 of the professional majors dating back to the 1957 US Open.

Last year, Nicklaus played in the US Open at Congressional Country Club on his fifth special exemption since 1991 and finished 52nd.

Nicklaus has not finished in the top 20 in the US Open since 1986 when he was eighth. That was also the year he won the last of his 18 professional major championships in the Masters.

Capitals defeat Coyotes



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Capitals stifled seven of eight power plays and got 24 saves from Olaf Kolzig in Monday's 2-1 victory over the injury-depleted Phoenix Coyotes.

The Capitals have rebounded from a six-game losing streak to win four of their last five and maintain a tenuous hold on fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Bruins 4, Lightning 3 (OT)

Dmitri Khristich forced overtime with a shorthanded goal with 1:43 left in the third period and fed Steve Heinze for the winner.

The host Bruins, on the verge of losing to the NHL's worst team, improved to 6-2-2 in their last 10 games. They stayed tied for fifth place in the Eastern Conference with Washington with 71 points, one behind Montreal, which holds the last home-ice playoff spot.

Rangers 5, Senators 4

Wayne Gretzky set up four goals and Alexei Kovalev scored twice and added two assists. The four-point game was the 218th in Gretzky's career.

Niklas Sundstrom, with a goal and three assists, also had a four-point game as the Senators moved within five points of the Rangers for the final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Flames 3, Canadiens 3

Andy Moog held his team in the game long enough for host Montreal to earn the tie, which extended the Canadiens' unbeaten streak to five (3-0-2), all at home.

Flyers 4, Maple Leafs 1

Colin Forbes scored two goals and Ron Hextall narrowly missed his 24th career shutout as host Philadelphia extended its unbeaten string to five games.

Mike Sillinger had a goal and an assist and Chris Gratton also scored for the Flyers (4-0-1), who snapped Toronto's three-game winning streak.

Sharks 2, Kings 1

Second-period goals by Tony Granato and Marcus Ragnarsson lifted host San Jose into a tie with Chicago for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

Granato scored from point-blank range after a short pass from Marco Sturm. Then Ragnarsson scored on a power play from short range on the left.

Phoenix				
W	0	0	1	1
L	1	1	1	1
Pct.	.000	.000	.000	.000
GB	—	—	—	—

First Period: 1. Boston, 10:00 (Hextall); 2. Washington, 17:58 (pp). Second Period: 1. Washington, 3:00 (Gardner); 2. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 3. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 4. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 5. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 6. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 7. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 8. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 9. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 10. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 11. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 12. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 13. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 14. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 15. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 16. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 17. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 18. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 19. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 20. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 21. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 22. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 23. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 24. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 25. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 26. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 27. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 28. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 29. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 30. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 31. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 32. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 33. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 34. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 35. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 36. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 37. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 38. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 39. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 40. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 41. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 42. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 43. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 44. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 45. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 46. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 47. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 48. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 49. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 50. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 51. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 52. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 53. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 54. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 55. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 56. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 57. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 58. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 59. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 60. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 61. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 62. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 63. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 64. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 65. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 66. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 67. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 68. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 69. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 70. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 71. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 72. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 73. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 74. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 75. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 76. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 77. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 78. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 79. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 80. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 81. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 82. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 83. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 84. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 85. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 86. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 87. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 88. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 89. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 90. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 91. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 92. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 93. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 94. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 95. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 96. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter); 97. Philadelphia, 10:00 (Trotter

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ENGLISH SOCCER

ENGLISH SOCCER - FA Cup quarter-final replays last night: West Ham United 1, Arsenal 1. (Arsenal won 4-3 on penalties, score at 90 minutes 1-1, half-time 0-1. Arsenal play Wolverhampton Wanderers in the semifinals on April 5.)

Sheffield United won 3-1 on penalties at 90 minutes 1-1, half-time 0-1. Sheffield United play Newcastle United on April 5.

Division One: Oxford United 3, Reading 0.

Division Two: Watford 2, Carlisle 1; Wigan 1, Southend 3; Wrexham 1, Millwall 0.

Zimbabwe pair
make record-
breaking stand

BULAWAYO (Reuters) - A record-breaking fifth-wicket stand of 277 between Murray Goodwin and Andy Flower enabled Zimbabwe to set Pakistan a daunting target of 368 to win the first Test at Queens Sports Club yesterday.

They had reduced that target by 24 runs without losing a wicket by the close. But Saeed Anwar was forced to retire hurt on seven after being struck in the box by fast bowler Heath Streak.

With pace bowler Waqar Younis off the field for the final two sessions because of a badly bruised left foot, Zimbabwe plundered runs at will on an excellent batting surface and declared their second innings closed at 302 for four.

Goodwin, with an unbeaten 166, and Flower, 100 not out, shared an unbroken stand of 277 to take Zimbabwe to 302 for four. Their partnership broke the Zimbabwe fifth-wicket record of 233 set by Grant Flower and Guy Whittall against Pakistan in Harare during the 1994-95 series. It also surpassed Zimbabwe's benchmark for any wicket - 269 posted by the fourth-wicket pair of Grant and Andy Flower in the same Test.



Inter Milan's Ronaldo (right) runs past Yves Elgenrauch of Schalke 04 during their UEFA Cup match last night.

(Reuters)

Villa go out of UEFA Cup
despite spirited fightback

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Atletico Madrid advanced to the semifinals of the UEFA Cup despite a 2-1 defeat against Aston Villa in their quarter-final second leg, tie at Villa Park last night.

The Spanish club went through on the away goals rule after the scores ended 2-2 on aggregate following their 1-0 triumph in Madrid two weeks ago.

Villa left themselves with a mountain to climb when goalkeeper Mark Bosnich's mistake gifted Atletico a 29th minute lead through Jose Luis Caminero.

But two goals in three minutes from Ian Taylor (71) and substitute Stan Collymore (73) set up a thrilling finale with Villa only being denied by a vital 83rd minute save by Jose Molina from Lee Hendrie.

Spartak Moscow 1, Ajax 0 in Moscow, Russian champions

Spartak Moscow marched into the semifinals of the UEFA Cup after winning a hard-fought battle against Ajax Amsterdam 1-0 on a freezing Moscow night for a 4-1 aggregate victory.

Alexander Shiroko, who had scored Spartak's first two goals in the first leg, was again the hero, striking in the 85th minute at the end of a typical Russian counter-attack.

Dutch keeper Edwin van der Sar parried his first effort, but the ball sped back into Shiroko's path and he made no mistake.

Ajax had it all to do after losing 3-1 in the first leg and failed to break down a resolute defence.

Auxerre 2, Lazio 2

In Auxerre, Lazio reached the UEFA Cup semifinals for the first time when they drew 2-2 with AJ Auxerre in the second leg of their quarter-final to go through 3-2 on

aggregate last night.

The Italian side secured their place in the last four with two early goals.

Roberto Mancini put them in front with a penalty in the seventh minute after Croatian striker Allen Boksic was brought down by central defender Frederic Danjou.

Six minutes later they went 2-0 up. Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved sent Guerinio Gontardi away down the right with a brilliant ball behind the defence and the winger beat goalkeeper Fabien Cool with a low shot to the bottom far corner.

Auxerre striker Stephane Guivarch pulled one back for the home side six minutes before the interval when he hit a superb free kick from 25 metres out into the top far corner of Luca Marcegiani's goal.

Guivarch equalized 10 minutes from time with a header from a cross from the right by winger Steve Marlet, but Lazio held out for their aggregate victory.

Schalke 1, Inter Milan 1

In Gelsenkirchen, Internazionale Milan avenged last season's defeat to Schalke in the final and dethroned the UEFA Cup champions through a goal by Tiberio West in extra time for a 1-1 draw.

West's goal in the opening minute of extra time gave Inter a 2-1 aggregate win and a place in the semifinals of the competition it won in 1991 and 1994.

Inter survived relentless pressure by Schalke throughout the regulation 90 minutes, but conceded a goal three minutes into injury time.

Michael Goossens, who came in as a substitute late in the second half, let fly with a right-footed drive from the edge of the area, finding the upper far corner of Inter's net.

Schmeichel's replacement hopes to end
Manchester United's run of losses

By ROBERT MILLWARD

LONDON (AP) - The Manchester United fans know it's not a good omen that Raimond van der Gouw is replacing Peter Schmeichel in goal against Monaco in the Champions Cup tonight.

It's not that he's a bad 'keeper. It's just that United have lost each of the last three games in which the 34-year-old Dutchman has played.

With Schmeichel out of action with a hamstring injury, Van der Gouw makes another of his rare appearances against Monaco.

He also played in last season's semifinal against Borussia Dortmund and United lost that, too.

Although manager Alex Ferguson has faith in Van der Gouw, who is also United's goalkeeper coach, the Dutchman says it is difficult to be No. 2 to one of the world's top goalkeepers.

"One of the problems being in the shadow of someone like Peter is you don't get much opportunity to play," he said.

"You're never sure how to train. You train knowing you're not playing, but then find yourself in the side."

With United already without Irish international midfielder Roy Keane, Welsh forward Ryan Giggs and England center-back Gary Pallister, the team needs a match-winning performance from Van der Gouw if it is to make the last four for the second year in a row.

Ferguson, whose team's lead in the Premier League has been cut to six points, has made no secret of the fact that the Champions Cup is his top priority this season and he will be furious if the players don't gain a victory at Old Trafford after surviving a goalless draw in Monaco two weeks ago.

All four quarterfinals wound up

level after the first legs.

Defending champions Borussia Dortmund and Bundesliga rivals Bayern Munich are 0-0. Dynamo Kiev are 1-1 with Juventus and six-time winners Real Madrid are 1-1 with another German club, Bayer Leverkusen.

The Dortmund-Bayern confrontation will be a tense, high-pressure game with so much at stake.

"We'll fight over every meter," said Dortmund's Joerg Heinrich. "For a Dortmund, there can be nothing better than to get into the semifinals over Bayern Munich," said Heinrich.

The mood is just as determined on the other side.

"We will fight until the last drop of our blood," promised Bayern Munich manager Uli Hoenes.

Bayern will be without imaginative midfielder Mario Basler, who is out for a month after suffering an

ankle injury against Bochum.

Dortmund, in addition to long absentee Matthias Sammer, may also be without striker Heiko Herrlich, who is nursing a calf injury. His place could be taken by Dutchman forward Harry Decheiver.

Another of the quarterfinals has a Germany vs. Germany flavor with Leverkusen up against a Real Madrid team coached by under-fire Jupp Heynckes, a former star of Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Real have slipped to seventh position behind Barcelona in the Spanish title race and Heynckes' future could be in doubt if the team loses tonight.

Leverkusen's coach, Christoph Daum, believes his team has a chance despite failing to beat the Spanish giants at home.

"It's like a Fiat Uno racing against Ferrari," he said.

"But they are vulnerable and we have to go onto the pitch with this

belief." Juventus, whose Serie A lead was cut to two points after a surprise 2-2 draw with last place Napoli on Sunday, go to Kiev short on confidence.

Coach Marcello Lippi scolded his players for almost an hour after they surrendered a 2-1 lead against 10-man Napoli and he hopes the message got through.

"Games like that happen when they happen," said Lippi, whose team has won only one of its last seven games.

"Unfortunately, you can't change the date of your next match if you're upset. But a strong turnaround is a trait of Juventus."

Kiev coach Volodymyr Lobanovsky played down Juventus' current lack of form.

"I believe they have a very good defense that can play well in any game," he said. "I would put Juventus in the first place in Europe."

Israel to test
Romania in
World Cup
warm up

By DEREK FATTAH

Romania national coach Anghel Iordanescu will be hoping to boost his side's morale at the expense of Israel in this evening's friendly bout between the two countries at the Steaua Stadium in Bucharest.

The match provides an important competitive platform for Iordanescu who is anxious to hone the skills of his men who face a heady summer of World Cup finals action in France where they are drawn in Group G along with England, Colombia and Tunisia.

The Romanians are heavily dependent on players that earn their bread and butter overseas and it has proved difficult in recent months for Iordanescu to bring his far-flung team together on a regular basis.

As it is, the side will not be able to field captain George Hagi who was hoping to make his 108th appearance in national colors against the Israelis. Hagi is still feeling the effects of an injury picked up recently playing in the Turkish cup with Galatasaray, while three other squad regulars are involved in this week's European club competitions.

Nevertheless, no fewer than 14 Romanian squad members have made the journey back to Bucharest for this evening's match and will need little encouragement as they seek to claim a place in Iordanescu's final pick for France.

Romania's dangerousman is likely to be Valencia's Iordan Ilie who has captured the headlines in the Spanish league with his goal-getting exploits of late.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf has enjoyed a fine start to the year with a couple of useful home victories under his belt in friendlies against an out-of-form Turkey (4-0) and then Poland (2-0), but Scharf knows that the Romanians are a breed apart.

Scharf's professional friendship with Iordanescu is no secret and this match represents what will be the final meeting between the two men in their current roles, as Iordanescu is set to become coach of the Greek national side, after the World Cup finals are completed.

Scharf has selection problems of

his own. Although Haim Revivo flew from Spain to Bucharest to join the squad, he has been declared unfit for today's game, meaning that the Israelis will be playing without any of their "European legion."

Added to Scharf's woes are concerns over the fitness of Hapoel Haifa's striker Ronen Harazi. If Harazi does not play then Hapoel Petah Tikva's Eli Abarbanel is set to take his place in a double-pronged offense alongside Alon Mizrahi who currently leads all National League scorers with 13 goals to his credit.

The freezing cold weather is also certain to be a factor which will go against the visitors. Israel trained in the snow in temperatures of minus six degrees at the Steaua stadium yesterday. The same venue will host tonight's match.

If past form is any guide to current capabilities, the Romanians are clear favorites. The two national sides have met no fewer than 18 times since the first meeting in 1966.

Of those matches, 16 have been friendlies and two were European Championship qualifiers.

Israel have won only once, when in 1981 they beat the visiting Romanians 2-1 in a friendly at Ramat Gan.

Five matches have ended as draws, with the remaining 12 being won by the Romanians.

Eleven of the matches have been played in various venues in Israel, with the Romanians hosting the other seven.

On the plus side Israel's stand-in captain Amir Shaleh has shaken off his fitness woes, and the hope remains that Betar Jerusalem's Jan Talasnikov can maintain his previous scoring feats in his third international appearance.

Today's match kicks off at 18:00 Israel time and will be transmitted live on Channel 1 and Radio 2.

Israel's track record against Romania since 1988: 23.11.88, Romania 3, Israel 0. 25.4.90, Israel 1, Romania 4. 9.9.93, Romania 1, Israel 0. 14.11.94, Israel 1, Romania 1. (ECU). 7.6.95, Romania 2, Israel 1. (ECU). 14.8.96, Romania 2, Israel 0.

Ramprakash wins
place in one-day squad

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) - Mark Ramprakash has been rewarded for his outstanding form on his Test return with a place in England's one-day squad to face West Indies.

Ramprakash, man-of-the-match in the drawn fifth Test against West Indies which ended here on Monday, is in a party of 15 players for the five one-dayers starting on March 29 after the Test series is over.

David Graveney, chairman of England's selectors, said Ramprakash owed his call-up to his success in the last two Tests - his first games of the series - in which he hit a half-century followed by his maiden Test century of 154 here.

England's one-day squad is based on the players who won the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah last December, even though Test captain Michael Atherton will be in charge instead of Adam Hoggie, who is vice-captain.

Batsmen Nick Knight and Graeme Hick, all-rounders Mark Ealham, Matthew Fleming and Ben Houlton, and pace bowler Doug Brown, who were all in Sharjah, have been added to nine of the players currently on the West Indies tour.

The rest of the Caribbean squad - Nasser Hussain, John Crawley, Mark Butcher, Phil Tufnell, Andrew Caddick, Chris Silverwood and Ashley Cowan - were overlooked for the one-day internationals.

Left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, another of the triumphant Sharjah party, has been ruled out by an Achilles tendon injury.

One-day squad: Mike Atherton (capt), Doug Brown, Robert Croft, Mark Ealham, Matthew Fleming, Dean Headley, Graeme Hick, Adam Hoggie, Ben Houlton, Angus Fraser, Nick Knight, Mark Ramprakash, Jack Russell, Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe.

Windies axe Bishop,
Williams for final Test

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) - Pace bowler Ian Bishop and wicketkeeper David Williams have been dropped by West Indies for the sixth and final Test against England starting in St John's, Antigua, on Friday.

They have been replaced in a squad of 13 by Jamaican fast bowler Franklyn Rose and wicketkeeper Junior Murray of the Windward Islands, both of whom are returning to Test cricket.

Bishop, who took his 50th wicket against England in the drawn fifth Test here this week, has had an unhappy series, unable to summon the pace and penetration to be a telling fourth prong in the fast bowling attack.

Serious back injuries in recent years have now made the Trinidadian a shadow of the bowler who has taken 161 wickets at 24.27 in 43 Tests.

Rose has not played in any of the Tests during the current series and was not even in the squad for the last two matches.

He made his Test debut against India at Kingston early last year and appeared in the last of his nine Tests against Pakistan in Karachi last December. He has taken 26

wickets at 26.23, with his best figures being six for 100.

Williams is left out after playing eight successive Tests following his recall at the age of 34. He has taken 19 catches in the five Tests of this series, but after hitting a match-winning 65 in the second Test he made three successive noughts.

West Indies have returned to Murray in their search for a consistently effective 'keeper. He has played in 28 Tests, taking 92 catches and making three stumpings, including 101 not out against New Zealand in 1994-95. His last Test was against India at Port of Spain early last year.

Both Bishop and Williams are from Trinidad, like the captain Brian Lara, and their omission should end speculation which had become rife in the Caribbean that it was only Lara's influence which kept the pair in the side.

West Indies, who lead the series 2-1, named the following squad for the final Test:

Brian Lara (captain), Clayton Lambert, Phil Wallace, John Hooper, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Jimmy Adams, Roland Holder, Junior Murray, Chris Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Nizzari McClean, Courtney Walsh, Desmond Rammarin.

Thieves filling bags with Callaway golf clubs

NEW YORK (AP) - The pattern was always the same.

Thieves smashed the window of a golf shop and, while the alarm waited, they cleaned out the Biggest Big Bertha and Great Big Bertha drivers in a matter of minutes.

"The second time they came to my store they took only the left-handed Berthas," Sam Gannaway of Pro Golf Discounts in Birmingham, Alabama, said Monday. He lost 130 of Callaway Golf Co.'s popular club in the two burglaries.

"We had them on video and they went right to the Callaway section and pulled the left-handed Biggest out of the racks, which were hard to get at," Gannaway said.

Thieves after Big Bertha drivers have pulled off dozens of smash-and-grab burglaries mostly in the southern United States in recent months, and shop owners fear that competitors with problems getting the popu-

lar Callaway clubs are behind the crimes.

Edwin Watts, one of the largest US golf retailers, on Monday posted a \$25,000 reward for the conviction of those stealing from his stores.

"Somebody big in the retail business is behind these thefts," Watts said. "It is somebody with a retail presence and an export presence." Watts, who has 40 Edwin Watts Golf Shops in nine states, said he has had seven break-ins since June. In all, he has lost \$500,000 in Biggest Big Bertha and Great Big Bertha drivers.

"These are smash-and-grab robberies that take three or four minutes," Watts said. "The people know what they are going in after, and I believe they have buyers lined up before they go in." Five stores in Atlanta were hit 12 times in the last year, a store in Birmingham, Alabama, was hit twice since January, and two stores in Gulf Shores, Alabama, were burglarized last week.

"In my opinion, Callaway products have been hard to get," said Bill Nillinger, who owns six Pro Golf Discount outlets in the Atlanta area and has had more than \$100,000 in Big Berthas stolen.

"These stolen clubs are being sold at a reduced price to competitors of mine either in state or out of state," Nillinger said.

The clubs of choice by golf shop thieves are anything made of titanium - the most expensive clubs - with the Big Berthas, the most popular driver on the market, the biggest target.

"They sell for \$400 to \$500 each, and a burglar can sell them for half that price on the black market," said Pat McDonald, an owner of Golf USA in Roseville, California, a shop that was burglarized twice last year.

Nillinger said he now keeps the Big Bertha equipment locked up after store hours. On a recent break-in, the would-be thieves left empty-handed rather than take non-Callaway

equipment, he said.

"We are aware of this rash of break-ins," said Bruce Parker, senior executive vice president for domestic sales at Callaway.

But Callaway officials doubted that legitimate retailers frustrated by an inability to get clubs were buying the stolen merchandise.

"The idea of them getting so desperate for shipments is not valid," company founder Ely Callaway said. "All of our major accounts have gotten clubs and have been able to reorder. The supply is under demand, but not that short."

Police are almost powerless dealing with stores that sell merchandise that may be stolen.

"For the police and district attorney to have a case, they have to be able to show exactly where that club came from, not only that it was stolen but stolen from whom and when," McCracken said.

Joe Miller 1350